

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 8 DECEMBER 2006

WYND CENTRE, PAISLEY

Present: Liz Burns (Chair)
Peter Burman
Mark Hopton
Ian Johnson
Eleanor McAllister
Ross Noble
James Simpson
Evelyn Silber
Andrew Wright
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Secretary)

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Neil Galbraith and Donald Carmichael, Director of Policy, Historic Scotland.

Minutes of the meeting of 15 September 2006

2. The minutes of the meeting were approved.

Note of 'blue skies' meeting of 15 September 2006

3. Council noted the record of the meeting.

Matters arising from Council meeting of 15 September 2006

Appointments to Council

4. The Chair reported on the preparatory steps which were being taken for making new appointments to Council in 2007. The review of the necessary documentation had been largely completed. Council considered that the vacancies should be advertised in the national newspapers, and that candidates should be made aware that the appointment process included a rigorous interview.

5. Council noted that the timetable for the appointments process had been altered because of the General Election. It was agreed that if, as was proposed, the new appointments commenced on 1 September 2007, Council should change the commencement of its reporting year from 1 June to 1 September.

Matters arising from blue skies meeting of 15 September 2006

The core agenda

6. Council considered the core agenda which had been identified at the blue skies meeting. It was agreed that Peter Burman would take the lead on sustainability and climate change, and that Council should revisit the core agenda at a later meeting.

Follow-up on reports submitted to the Minister

7. Council considered the question of following up the four reports to the Minister in the light of various meetings which had been held with Historic Scotland. The letter of 20 November from BEFS to the Minister was noted.

8. It was noted that Historic Scotland's immediate reaction, particularly to the legislation and local authority reports, had raised questions about the nature of the evidence base Council had utilised and its documentation. It was suggested that strategic advice would not, by its very nature, be entirely evidence-based, and that the process of gathering evidence was essentially a task for others, including Historic Scotland. Issues surrounding evidence raised questions about the resources available to HEACS. There might also be implications for the future composition and constitution of HEACS working groups.

9. It was felt that, while it was important that debates were kept alive, it was for other organisations to consider how the recommendations of the reports might be taken forward. Council noted that an initial response from the Minister was expected before the end of the calendar year. It was agreed that the question of following up on the four reports would be kept in view.

Future resources for HEACS

10. The Chair introduced the papers setting out the background to the offer by Historic Scotland of additional resources for HEACS. She also reported on a meeting she had had on 5 November with Donald Carmichael, Director of Policy at Historic Scotland.

11. Historic Scotland had proposed the creation a new part-time post of Secretary to HEACS at a higher grade. The Secretariat would include two other full-time posts, one of which could function mainly in a research officer type of role. In addition Historic Scotland proposed to increase the current budget from £60,000 to £100,000. However, it had been indicated that Historic Scotland would not necessarily regard alternative accommodation as an issue. It could therefore be assumed that the Secretariat could continue to operate from within Longmore House, rather than move to external premises as had been originally proposed.

12. Council agreed to accept the proposed new post of Secretary and the offer of an increased budget. It was agreed that the Secretariat should continue to be based at Longmore House, but it was felt that the issue of location should be reconsidered

in the longer term. The Chair's Group would take these matters forward in the meantime.

Current work

Letter of 15 November from Patricia Ferguson

13. Council noted the terms of the letter from Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Economic Significance Working Group

14. Council considered the report and work plan of the Economic Significance Working Group. It was agreed that the Working Group might proceed with commissioning a scoping brief for a research project into the economic impact of the historic environment. The Chair's Group would authorise expenditure on the scoping brief as necessary.

Infrastructure Working Group

15. Council considered the work plan of the Infrastructure Working Group. It was agreed that the Working Group might proceed as proposed.

Ecclesiastical heritage

16. Council discussed a paper on ecclesiastical heritage prepared by James Simpson. It was agreed that James Simpson, with the assistance of Andrew Wright and Peter Burman, should prepare a draft remit for a working group on the topic for consideration by Council at its next meeting.

Consultation papers

Historic Scotland Review of Support for the Voluntary Sector

17. Council noted its response to the consultation.

Draft PAN on Community Engagement

18. Council noted its response to the consultation.

Chair's Group

19. Council noted the record of the meeting of the Chair's Group.

Budget Paper

20. Council noted the budget paper.

A O B

Archaeology and agriculture and forestry

21. Council noted the briefing papers from Historic Scotland and Jonathan Wordsworth of CSA which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Council noted the position and agreed that Ian Johnson would take the lead and report back to Council.

Mill and kiln at Shawbost and Eaglais na h-Aoidhe

22. Council noted an article by Peter Burman in the journal Architectural Heritage which mentioned the horizontal mill and kiln at Shawbost and Eaglais na h-Aoidhe on the Isle of Lewis.

Culture Bill and RCAHMS

23. Council noted that the forthcoming Culture Bill would include proposals for abolishing the RCAHMS and establishing a new body in its place. Council would consider the Bill's proposals in due course.

UNESCO World Heritage Committee

24. The Chair reported meeting in New Zealand Mr Tumu te Heuheu, the new Chairperson of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Funding

25. Council agreed that the question of a working group on funding for the historic environment could be deferred.

Date of next meeting

26. The next Council meeting would be held on 16 March.

HEACS
January 2007