

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 12 DECEMBER 2008

GRAMPIAN HOTEL, PERTH

Present: Liz Burns (Chair)
Peter Burman
Mark Hopton
Colin McLean
Eila Macqueen
Ross Noble
Richard Oram
Evelyn Silber
James Simpson
Andrew Wright
Olwyn Owen (Secretary)
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Senior Administrator)

Welcome and apologies

1. The Chair welcomed members. There were apologies from Ian Johnson.

Minutes of the meeting of 17 September 2008

2. The minutes of the previous Council meeting were approved.

Matters arising

Rural issues

3. Council noted that land managers had been taking advantage of the availability of funding under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) for the repair of vernacular buildings. It was considered that this raised questions about the repair of vernacular or traditional buildings not eligible for funding under the SRDP. The current level of applications under the SRDP for archaeological projects represented a significant decrease in funding compared with previous agri-environment schemes.

Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA)

4. Council noted that, while Historic Scotland would update the basic data on the SHEA website, the agency did not intend publishing another commentary for three years. In the meantime, resources would be diverted to funding the Buildings at Risk survey of Category A-listed buildings. It was likely that the SHEA would in time become part of Historic Scotland's wider research strategy.

Meetings with other agencies 2009

5. Council agreed that, apart from a proposed meeting with SNH, no further meetings would be arranged with other agencies. This would not preclude Council engaging with other organisations in the process of drafting Council's closing report.

Current work

Infrastructure

6. Council noted that the report on the infrastructure for the historic environment had been finalised and was in the process of being designed for e-publication. It would be submitted to the Minister shortly.

Audit and Review of Volunteering

7. Council discussed the draft audit and review of volunteering which had been produced by for HEACS by Volunteer Development Scotland. Council agreed that the report should be finalised and submitted to the Minister with the infrastructure report.

Economic Significance

8. Council discussed the draft report which would form a covering document to the ECOTEC report on the Economic Impact of the Historic Environment. Council agreed that the report would be amended and signed off by the Chair and Ian Johnson.

Ecclesiastical Heritage

9. Council discussed a draft report produced for the Ecclesiastical Heritage Working Group. A further draft would be presented to the March Council meeting.

Young Adults

10. Council discussed a draft report of the Young Adults Working Group. Council agreed that the report would be amended, circulated to Council for further comment and approval, and signed off by the Chair and Evelyn Silber.

Communications strategy

11. Council noted the decision by the Chair's Group that forthcoming HEACS reports should be e-published on its website along with associated commissioned research reports. Council discussed the publication arrangements for its reports, particularly that on the economic significance of the historic environment.

Chair's Group

Minutes of the meeting of 20 October 2008

12. Council noted the minutes of the Chair's Group meeting.

Minutes of the meeting with Historic Scotland on 24 November 2008

13. Council noted the minutes of the meeting with Historic Scotland. Council noted that, since the meeting, the timetable had been changed for the draft Bill which would include provisions for the abolition of HEACS.

Closing report 2009

14. Council noted the framework for the planning session on the closing report arranged for the morning of 13 December.

Closing Conference 2009 – Edinburgh

15. Council noted the proceedings of a meeting of the conference steering group. Council discussed how it might utilize its slot in the conference programme and also gave consideration to possible speakers.

Budget paper

16. Council noted the budget paper.

A O B

Amending the Heritage Legislation

17. Council noted an article by the Minister which had been published in *The Scotsman* on 5 December and associated letter from Historic Scotland on the Scottish Government's intention to consult during 2009 on a draft Bill containing focused legislative amendments. Council agreed that it should ask Historic Scotland to keep it informed of the process.

Date of next meeting

18. The next meeting would take place on 13 March in Glasgow.

HEACS January 2009