

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 13 MARCH 2009

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, GLASGOW

Present: Liz Burns (Chair)
Mark Hopton
Ian Johnson
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 Peter Burman.

Minutes of the meeting of 12 December 2008

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

Matters arising

Rural issues

3. Council noted that James Simpson had met with Dick Balharry, Chair of the John Muir Trust, to discuss the interface between the cultural and natural heritage.

Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA)

4. Council discussed a Historic Scotland paper setting out an update of SHEA. Council noted that some of the results of its work on economic impact and volunteering would be incorporated in the SHEA website shortly.
5. Council noted that Historic Scotland had invested in the Buildings at Risk Survey. However, concern was expressed about the impact on the survey by the investigation into Category A-listed buildings. It was considered that this investigation would not provide a true indication of the state of the historic environment. Concern was expressed as to the conclusions which might be drawn from the investigation of only Category A-listed buildings, the nature of the analysis, and what it meant for the state of the historic environment. Council agreed to bring these concerns to SHEA.

Meetings with other agencies 2009

6. Council noted that there had not been time to arrange and prepare for a meeting with SNH.

Current work

Infrastructure

7. Council noted that the report on the infrastructure for the historic environment had been submitted to the Minister. Historic Scotland considered that the report made a good case for a national infrastructure body for the historic environment and was in the process of taking the report forward.

Economic Significance

8. Council discussed the proposals for creating media interest in the report on the economic significance of the historic environment which had been submitted to the new Minister but not yet published. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed with the Minister.

Ecclesiastical Heritage

9. Council discussed a further draft of the report on the ecclesiastical heritage. Council agreed arrangements for consideration of a revised draft.

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.

Chair's Group

Minutes of the meeting of 20 January 2009

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

Minutes of the meeting with Historic Scotland on 9 March 2009

12. Council noted the minutes of the meeting with Historic Scotland.

Closing report 2009

13. Council noted the framework for the planning session on the closing report arranged for the morning of 13 December and the scoping document considered by the Chair's Group. Council considered an outline closing report and agreed that members should email comments to the Secretariat to be incorporated into a redraft.

Closing Conference 2009 – Edinburgh

14. Council noted the proceedings of a meeting of the Conference Steering Group on 9 February and welcome the progress being made with the programme.

Budget paper

16. Council noted the budget paper for 2008/9 and the estimate for 2009/10.

Legislative programme

Public Services Reform Bill

17. Council noted that Historic Scotland had indicated that the timetable for the Public Services Reform Bill which would include provisions to abolish HEACS had slipped. Historic Scotland had suggested that HEACS might wish to consider continuing for a further 12 months after the end of May 2009, subject to the views of the Public Appointments Commissioner and the Minister. Council discussed the proposal and agreed that the matter should be raised with the Minister as a matter of urgency.

Heritage Amendment Bill

18. Council noted that the Heritage Amendment Bill was due to be issued for public consultation in May.

A O B

First Report Historic Monuments Council for Northern Ireland 2003-09

19. Council noted the report of the Historic Monuments Council for Northern Ireland.

Member's assessments

20. Council noted the arrangements for completing member's assessments.

Ecclesiastical Heritage

21. Council noted that James Simpson was to speak to the AGM of the Forth and Borders Group of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland on the ecclesiastical heritage. It was agreed that he should speak in a personal capacity.

Date of next meeting

22. The next Council meeting would take place on 19 May in Edinburgh.

**HEACS
March 2009**