

**IN CONFIDENCE**

**HISTORIC MONUMENTS COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE 140<sup>th</sup> MEETING HELD IN  
HILLSBOROUGH COURT HOUSE  
ON  
WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2007 AT 1.30PM**

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**PRESENT:**

Mr R Black– Chairman  
Mrs R Evans  
Mr I Hill  
Mrs H Lanigan Wood  
Mr J Moore  
Dr K Muhr  
Dr E McShane

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr M Coulter, EHS  
Dr B Williams, EHS  
  
Mr P Logue, EHS  
Ms M Gormley, EHS  
Mr L McQuillan, EHS  
  
Mr C Francey, Secretariat

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr D Flinn, Mr C Mallon, Dr F McCormick, Mr T Canavan, Mr P Walsh, Mr B Black and Mr J O'Neill.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed and congratulated the recently appointed EHS Curatorial staff, Ms M Gormley, Mr P Logue and Mr L McQuillan. He also congratulated Dr B Williams on his appointment to the post of Assistant Director, Principal Inspector.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

**2.1 DOE Protocol**

The Chairman referred to the draft protocol for guiding the relationship between the SACs and the Department issued by the Deputy Secretary in June 2007 . He tabled a revised draft paper dated the 17<sup>th</sup> August and after a brief discussion about the changes those members present agreed that the amendments were reasonable. However, the Chairman suggested that the revised draft be circulated to those members not in attendance so that all members had the opportunity to comment.

**ACTION: Circulate revised draft to Council Secretariat**

**2.2 Freedom of Information**

The Chairman reported that he had received a request from EHS for minutes of Council's meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2005 relating to the former Maze Prison site. Members offered no objection to this request. It was also pointed out that there may also be a later minute on the same theme. Council agreed

that if this was the case then the minutes of any further business in respect of the Maze should be sent to EHS. The Secretariat is to check for any further minutes of meetings about the Maze and copy them to EHS.

**ACTION: Copy any further minutes to the EHS                      Secretariat**

### **2.3 Talk on Council's Role - Bangor West Probus Club**

The Chairman informed members that a request had been received from the President of the Bangor West Probus Club for a representative of Council to give a presentation to its members on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, about the role of Council. Members felt that it would be a good opportunity for Council to raise its public profile.

Dr McShane undertook to give the presentation on the 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**ACTION: Give presentation to Probus Club                      Dr McShane**

### **3. MINUTES OF 139<sup>TH</sup> MEETING of 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> June, were agreed.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING REPORT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 139<sup>TH</sup> MEETING.**

Members noted the reports in the matters arising report.

### **5. ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING NOT ON MAIN AGENDA**

There were no other matters arising not on the main agenda.

### **6. PRESENTATION ON BUILT HERITAGE STRUCTURES**

Mr Coulter reported that the exercise on re-structuring of the Built Heritage had been completed. The recruitment process for the new posts had been carried out and Curatorial staff appointed.

Dr Williams explained that the service would now be geographically based with two regions being identified as Historic Monuments Unit North and Historic Monuments Unit South. He and Mr J O'Keeffe had broad areas of lead responsibility for these two regions with five Curatorial D inspectors being responsible for all aspects of historic monuments within smaller divisions in these regions. Curatorial D Inspectors have also been allocated specific thematic responsibilities. Three Curatorial E staff support the Inspectors and four field wardens complete the structure for Historic Monuments. Dr Williams added that a new Archaeological Forum would be set up within the section to share experiences and discuss relevant issues.

Members welcomed the introduction of the new structures and new staff and looked forward to seeing the benefits of the new arrangements.

Dr Williams gave an update on some of the outstanding EHS publications being undertaken by EHS.

### **7. THE SCHEDULING PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND: FUTURE DIRECTIONS (presented to HMC on 26<sup>th</sup> April)**

The Chairman reminded members that they had endorsed this paper at Council's meeting in June 2007, but they were concerned about the number of known monuments which had no protection. In order to consider how to address this and a number of other outstanding issues to take this forward it was agreed that the Chairman meet with Dr Williams and Mr J O'Keeffe, Principal Inspectors, EHS to discuss the issues of the scheduling programme. This meeting could also be used as a precursor to the drafting of Council's work programme so that there is dovetailing with the EHS Business Plan.

**ACTION: Arrange meeting with Dr Williams and Mr O'Keeffe**  
**Secretariat**

## **8. REGNI WORKSHOP**

The Chairman referred to the recent launch of the report in the Review of Governance in Northern Ireland. He and the chairman of HMC had attended a meeting with the Permanent Secretary after the launch and it was suggested that it might be useful for the 3 SACs to have a Workshop to address the issues of the Report. Subsequently, the Chairs of the SACs met to discuss a programme for the workshops. However, it was agreed that there was a need to clarify what was to be addressed and the outcomes to be achieved.

At this stage Government did not have any firm views on how the recommendations of REGNI will be progressed and the workshop could provide the instrument for the SACs to put forward its views on the issues.

Members highlighted the recommendations in the Report about the future of the SACs. The Secretary of State had previously expressed the view that the role of the SACs would be reviewed in the light of the REGNI. The Report recommended that the SACs should be set up as one statutory advisory body. This workshop would provide the opportunity to consider a number of options on the future of the SACs including a possible model based on the Heritage Council of ROI.

It was agreed that the Chairman and two other members of the Council should attend the meeting with the Department to discuss the format for the Workshop.

## **9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

The Chairman reported that the Archaeological Research Sub-Group finalised the Position Statement on archaeological research at a meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007. Council considered how best to have this published in the public domain.

Dr Williams informed members that EHS had received a substantial number of developer's reports on archaeological excavations during the last year. Dr C Lynn, former employee of EHS, has been contracted to carry out an assessment of developer excavations. Members welcomed this encouraging news.

Mr Coulter noted the current status of the Position Statement and would consider the best option for Council to take this forward. Members suggested that the Statement should be sent to the Permanent Secretary pointing out the need to address the wider implications of the Statement for other

Departments. Dr Williams informed members that the subject matter of archaeological research and storage was also exercising the minds of a number of bodies in the RoI and Great Britain. He pointed out that EHS now had a forum for research and Council's paper would be a welcome contribution to its agenda.

Members agreed with this approach for the publication of its Statement. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to circulate a note to those members not present asking for their views.

**ACTION: Consider the best option for the Statement Mr Coulter**

**Circulate note on Council's approach Secretariat**

## **10. HMC REPORT**

Mrs Evans reported that she had edited and sent articles for the HMC Report back to members for their final approval. It was agreed that the Chairman and Mrs Evans should meet to discuss the final drafting of the Report.

It was noted that EHS has given permission for Council to make use of the Built Heritage photographs and illustrations for use in its Report.

**ACTION: Discuss the drafting of the Report Chairman /Mrs Evans**

## **11. HMC WORK PROGRAMME**

It was agreed to defer the formulation of Council's Work Programme pending the outcome of the meeting the Chairman is to have with Dr Williams and Mr O'Keeffe.

**ACTION: Meet with EHS Chairman**

## **12. JCIH**

### **12.1 Titanic Quarter**

The Chairman of JCIH reported that both he and Mr Robinson, Chairman of HBC, met with the Head of the Civil Service, Mr Nigel Hamilton, as a result of a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2007 from JCIH to him about Titanic Quarter. They had the opportunity to put forward the JCIH views and concerns about development in that area. Mr Hamilton undertook to come back to them.

### **12.2 Membership of JCIH**

Members agreed that Mr I Hill should fill the remaining vacancy and represent Council on JCIH.

### **12.3 Canals Conference**

Mr Moore reported that he attended a Canals Conference in Liverpool in June 2007. The conference included a tour of the Manchester Ship Canal. He was impressed with the conference programme and the issues raised could have a knock on effect for the proposed reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and ultimately relevant issues to be considered by Council.

**13. LOWER BANN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr Moore informed members that he would be unable to attend the next meeting of the LBAC on the 20 September. He was concerned that a representative of Council should be there because of some of the issues on dredging and erosion of the banks of the Bann. Dr Muhr undertook to stand in for Mr Moore on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**ACTION: Attend next meeting of LBAC Dr K Muhr**

**14. CONSULTATIONS**

Members noted Council's responses to the consultations on the

- Ring of Gullion AONB – Towards A Management Strategy and
- Heritage Lottery Fund

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**15.1 Derry's Walls – Conservation Plan**

Mr Coulter informed members that the Minister had launched the conservation plan for Derry's Walls on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August. This was a plan drawn up by a number of stakeholders including EHS, Derry City Council and the NI Tourist Board.

**ACTION: Circulate Conservation Plan to Members Secretariat**

**15.2 Dalway's Bawn**

Dr Williams advised members that EHS had recently been alerted by Carrickfergus Borough Council that Dalway's Bawn, a monument in guardianship, had changed ownership. EHS was concerned that with this change could be a breach in the guardianship conditions. In view of this and as a first step, EHS is to meet the new owner to discuss what plans he has for the Bawn. He will update members on the outcome.

In the meantime, the Secretariat is to circulate members with copies of the previous minutes relating to Dalway's Bawn.

**ACTION: Update Council in due course Dr Williams**

**Circulate previous minutes Secretariat**

**15.3 Book Launches –**

**(a) 'Lough Neagh Places'**

Dr Muhr invited members to the launch of her book 'Lough Neagh Places' taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, at Shane's Castle, Antrim.

**(b) 'Strangford: Portrait of an Irish Lough' and 'Lecale – Paintings by James Miles'**

Mr Hill informed members of two forthcoming book launches of books he had written.

#### **15.4 Boa Island Carved Stone**

Mrs Lanigan Wood pointed out that the EHS Conservation Statement on the Boa Island figure had still to be presented to HMC so that a way forward can be found for the best option to protect this stone.

Council agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting of Council in October.

#### **16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Council is due on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

( meeting finished at 4.45pm)