



Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held at the offices of Jacobs Ltd, 95 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, at 11am on Monday 31 August 2009.

Present:

Professor J Hume (Chairman), Dr K Byrne, Mr M Hopton, Professor J Hunter, Dr G Masterton, Professor C Morris, Dr J Murray, Dr S Nenadic, Ms E Reid, Mrs D Murray (Secretary), Ms R Bailey, Mrs L Ferguson, Ms J McCoy, Mr J Stevenson, Dr A Jackson (minutes).

1. Apologies:

Professor A Macdonald, Mrs D Burton

2. Reserved Business

3. Minutes and matters arising from the Plenary meeting of 3 July 2009

Action Points 4 & 5

Mrs Murray to write a letter of thanks to Mr Cunningham and to invite him to meet with Commissioners at the December Plenary Meeting.

Mrs Murray

The minutes were approved with no further matters arising.

4. Secretary's Report

Mrs Murray highlighted the joint response to the Minister's request for RCAHMS, Historic Scotland and National Archives of Scotland to identify opportunities for working together. There has been an improvement in the working relationship with Historic Scotland over recent months.

Public Services Reform Bill

The National Museums of Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland have decided to respond together to the draft Public Services Reform Bill, as they and their Trustees operate under primary legislation. Mrs Murray is considering making a separate response on behalf of RCAHMS.

Accommodation

Mrs Ferguson summarised recent progress on accommodation. Mrs Ferguson suggested that RCAHMS explore other sources of funding (e.g. the HLF). Discussion focused on ways in which RCAHMS might make a bid for funding for storage more attractive to potential funders.

Historic Landuse Assessment (HLA)

Mrs Murray reported that there is an agreement in place for funding from Historic Scotland for the HLA project for 2009/10. A new Memorandum of Agreement is being finalised prior to discussion with HS and it includes arrangements for orderly termination of the project should this become necessary. The HLA strategy document will be presented to the S&R Programme Committee in October.

Mr Stevenson

5. Finance and Staffing Report

Dr Jackson tabled staff diagram and summarised key staff changes during the period 1st July to August 31st 2009.

Dr Jackson gave a brief report on RCAHMS finances for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

6. Job Evaluation and Grading Support (JEGS)

Dr Jackson gave a presentation on JEGS process providing an outline programme for RCAHMS forthcoming exercise in 2010.

7. Business Plan

Mrs Murray outlined progress with the business plan and invited comments from Commissioners. Commissioners expressed support for the general approach proposed. The discussion that followed focused on the following:

- the Foreword should be a short and positive statement
- there should be emphasis placed on RCAHMS role in setting and maintaining high standards and in the creation of data
- case studies should illustrate the key roles
- Scran, both its name and function, should be spelt out where it is first mentioned in the business plan
- the key strategic objectives must be both aspirational and measurable.
- the section relating to RCAHMS contribution to the National Performance Framework should be integrated within the section on the key strategic objectives.
- Professor Hunter suggested that the creation of data should be emphasised under key objective 2.
- RCAHMS role in making information available worldwide
- The advantages of illustrating the links and relationships between the various aspects of what RCAHMS does diagrammatically.

Mrs Murray stated that the aim is to complete the design and publication by end of December 2009.

8. Evaluation reports on Treasured Places and Scotland's Rural Past

Ms Bailey summarised the results of evaluation work that was undertaken on the Treasured Places Project. The project achieved considerable success in all areas, most notably in terms of the public's response to the online voting process, to the workshops and exhibitions and the new audiences that the project had reached. Ms Bailey also highlighted the success of the new online facility that allows the public to contribute to Canmore.

The Chairman congratulated staff on the success of the Treasured Places Project.

The Scotland's Rural Past presentation was deferred to the next meeting.

Ms Bailey

9. Presentation on Scotland Places

The presentation was deferred but was delivered later on the Field Trip.

10. AOCB

Mrs Murray reported that Historic Scotland has expressed a desire to explore opportunities for RCAHMS and HS to work together on Bute.

Mrs Murray reported on discussions with Historic Scotland regarding the new Marine Bill. The intention is to jointly bid for funds to gather records relating to the marine historic environment.

Mr Stevenson reported that RCAHMS has been invited to sit on Historic Scotland's 3D Scanning Steering Group. RCAHMS has particular interest in assisting Historic Scotland with the scanning of the 5 Scottish World Heritage sites: New Lanark, Orkney, Edinburgh, Antonine Wall and St Kilda. Ms McCoy and Mrs Ferguson highlighted the issues of preservation and storage.

Mrs Ferguson reported that Princess Anne recently visited the *Wanderings with a Camera* exhibition in North Uist.

Commissioners thanked Mrs Murray and staff.

ACTION POINTS	Action By	Action Status
1. Item 2: Letter of thanks be sent to Mr Cunningham. Mr Cunningham to be invited to meet with Commissioners at the December Plenary meeting.	Mrs Murray	Pending
2. Item 4: The HLA strategy document to be presented to the next Survey & Recording Programme Committee meeting in October.	Mr Stevenson	Pending
Item 8: Scotland's Rural Past presentation deferred to the December Plenary meeting.	Ms Bailey	Pending