

Heritage Asset Review Group

Notes of Meeting held on Friday 4 December 2015 starting at 1.15pm.

Present:

Murray Gray – in the Chair
Jacquie Burgess
Mike Barnard
Sholeh Blane
Lana Hempsall

Also Present: Sir Peter Dixon

In attendance:

Ben Hogg – Historic Environment Manager
Prue Smith – Consultant on Cultural Heritage
Sandra Beckett – Administrative Officer

18/1 Apologies for absence and welcome

No Apologies for absence were received. The Chairman welcomed Peter Dixon as an observer.

18/2 To receive the note of the seventeenth meeting held on 21 August 2015

The Note of the seventeenth meeting of HARG held on 21 August 2015 was received as a correct record.

18/3 Points of Information arising from the last meeting

There were no further points of information arising from the last meeting other than those to be discussed within the agenda.

18/4 Conservation Area Re-Appraisals

Progress was reported on the following Conservation Areas.

(1) Oulton Broad Conservation Area Re-Appraisal

The Group noted that the Oulton Broad Conservation Area re-appraisal had been adopted by the full Authority on 25 September 2015 as well as by Waveney District Council.

(2) **Stalham Staithe Conservation Area Re-Appraisal**

At its meeting on 6 November 2015, the Planning Committee had agreed that the Stalham Staithe Conservation Reappraisal be endorsed for consultation. The Historic Environment Manager reported that he had been in touch with the two local publications for Stalham as suggested, and they were happy for the Authority to provide an article on the Re-Appraisal during the consultation period. It was hoped that it would be possible to obtain some more information on the allotment area as up to now this had proved limited.

18/4 Heritage at Risk

18/4 Buildings at Risk Schedule 2015

(1)

The Historic Environment Manager provided the Group with the updated Schedules relating to the Buildings At Risk Survey as well as the Schedule relating to current and potential Enforcement issues.

With reference to the **Mills** within the schedule, most came within the Landscape Partnership Scheme bid where match funding had been promised by owners should the LPS bid be successful and it was pleasing to note that most had been in contact with the Authority expressing encouragement and their wish to be involved.

It was noted that **Bridge Farmhouse, Low Road, Mettingham**, was the subject of a Section 106 Agreement, where planning permission for another property was dependent on repairs to the farmhouse and that the planning permission was due to expire. Although the owner had indicated that he wished to revisit the existing planning permission, no application had been received. A letter would be sent to the owner in the first instance and if no response, the Group agreed that a report be brought to the Planning Committee.

Langley Abbey – the owner had been informed of the possibility of the Authority issuing an Urgent Works Notice concerning the works on the former stable block. This would require authorisation from the Planning Committee. No response had been forthcoming as yet and therefore the Historic Environment Manager would contact the owner directly by telephone before a report was brought to Committee.

Brick Barn Gillingham – the Historic Environment Manager reported that there had been a response from the owner stating he was meeting with his Architect and a scheme would be forthcoming. The Architect had been in touch with the Authority and was submitting drawings for comment.

18/4 Enforcement

(2)

The Group welcomed the continued progress on the replacement of the windows and doors at Ashby with Oby Manor House.

18/5 West Somerton Conservation Area Re-Appraisal

Further to Note 17/5(3) the Group was advised that the Chair of the Authority, the Historic Environment Manager and the Director of Planning and Resources had met with Somerton Parish Council and explained the procedures and potential proposals relating to the two distinct areas with various satellites coming within the one conservation area of East and West Somerton. Both parts came under Somerton Parish Council. Although, East Somerton came within Great Yarmouth's area and West Somerton within the Broads Authority's area, Great Yarmouth was happy for the Authority to carry out the re-appraisal and consultation on its behalf. The Parish Council were keen to progress the re-appraisal and wished to have a copy of the draft before it was submitted for official consultation.

The Group received the draft text for the Conservation Area re-Appraisal. The Historic Environment Manager provided photographs and a map of the whole of the area and drew attention to those areas for particular discussion as to their contribution to the Conservation Area. Members noted that the whole of the East Somerton section was worthy of inclusion as well as the area in the vicinity of the Staithe at West Somerton.

Members congratulated officers on the text considering it to be a valuable contribution and celebration of the local history.

It was noted that the Somerton CA was one of the last Conservation Area Re-appraisals to be undertaken, Ludham and Horning being the other two. It was suggested that once all the reappraisals had been completed, these be combined together. It was also suggested that a book publication would be worthwhile.

The Group agreed:

- (i) that the text be approved for consideration by the Planning Committee for public consultation; and
- (ii) That the text be forwarded to Somerton Parish Council prior to official publication for consultation

18/6 Water, Mills and Marshes: The Broads Landscape Partnership Bid

Will Burchnall confirmed that as members will already be aware, the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) for the Broads Landscape Partnership Project titled: Water, Mills and Marshes had been successful. The project had been allocated £220,000 for the work on preparing the Development Phase in order to submit a second round application. This had already begun with the advertising for a Programme Manager for the Project. In addition, letters had been circulated to all those who had indicated and pledged a contribution in order to seek confirmation. The following areas of work would be progressed during the 18 month development phase up until May 2017:

- Appointment of Programme Manager – December 2015

- Historic Environment Manager to work up Schedule for work on the mills – Spring/Summer 2016
- Education element to be developed – 2016
- Development of Landscape Action Plan including archaeological elements and ecclesiastical history – 2016.

The Group wished to formally thank, on behalf of all Members, Will Burchnall and the team for the success of the bid.

18/7 Any Other Business

18/7(1) Mill Wright – Vincent Pargeter

The Group noted with sadness, the loss of Vincent Pargeter at the age of 72 years. He had been one of two very experienced millwrights who worked within the Broads and his loss would leave a big gap. He was due to work on the Stracey Arms project.

18/7(2) Norfolk County Council

The Historic Environment Manager reported that the Authority had received correspondence from David Gurney at Norfolk County Council concerning consultation on the proposed budgetary cuts by the County from April 2016. This included a reduction in the services to be provided by the historic environment team upon which the Authority had relied considerably for certain areas of expertise. It was intended that the team would only do that which was a statutory requirement and this would have implications for the Authority.

The Historic Environment Manager and Director of Planning Resources would be discussing the matter. The Group urged them to provide a strong consultation response.

18/8 Date of Next Meeting –1 April 2016

It was noted that the next meeting of the Heritage Asset Review Group would take place on Friday **1 April 2016** following the Planning Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1.55pm