



EAST OF ENGLAND CIVIC & AMENITY SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

16th March 2011 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park, Cambridge

Present: Peter Landshoff (Chair), Carolin Göhler, Alec Hartley, Andrew Sangster & Terry Betts.

[In attendance: Nigel Bell – Admin. Officer]

1. Apologies

From Jo Edwards.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

PL reported that four Local Enterprise Partnerships were developing in the Eastern Region. The Committee thought that LEPs would need to be pressed into protecting the historic and natural environment, the importance of this in the recruitment and retention of skilled workers might be the key to getting them to consider this aspect.

The Historic Environment Forum and the East of England Environment Forum were both continuing and would seek to influence the LEPs. It was noted that the LEPs would be largely reliant on resources from Local Authorities.

Civic Voice had kept its subscriptions capped at £500, or £1.50 per member, for Civic Societies. The Committee agreed that it was useful to have an influential organisation to lobby at national level on behalf of the Civic movement.

The issue of the Localism Bill was to be addressed at the Ely Seminar on 7th May and CambridgePPF were holding a workshop on the issue in July in Cambridge. AANTAS were getting the Henley MP to their meeting to discuss this issue, he was a PPS who had been working on the Bill. The EECAS Committee agreed that this issue needed to be propagated and ideas disseminated through the e-Newsletter. CambridgePPF and the Norwich Society were both concentrating on the planning aspects of the Bill. It was noted that The Chamber of Commerce was looking for examples of 'blockages to enterprise' to campaign on and it was thought that shortage of planning resources in Local Authorities ought to be an issue they were aware of. The e-Newsletter would encourage responses to the Chamber of Commerce on this subject. **[PSO]**

PL reported that he was impressed by the work being done by the Chelmsford Society, particularly on their 'Town Plan', and that we should publicise this. Hertford Society hoped that the Localism Bill would make their City Council engage better with Societies. Cambridge PPF were working with the City Council on a variety of issues. The Norwich Society was working closely with their City Council and others and an account would be provided for inclusion in the e-Newsletter. **[AH]**

5. Forums

East of England Environment Forum [EEEEF] – CG said we needed statistics on Civic and Amenity Society membership in the Eastern Region, including the number of members and the amount of land and buildings owned and managed. The EEEF members had expressed some concern at the remit of the new LEPs and the various cuts being made to member organisations.

Historic Environment Forum [HEF] – the minutes of the 11th March meeting were also circulated. The HEF had also expressed concern at member organisations cuts. Neil Stott of Keystone Trust addressed the meeting on the Subject of The Big Society and may be a Speaker at the 7th May Seminar in Ely.

6. Financial Report

A financial report was given by Terry Betts who stated that there was a total of £758 in the EECAS account.

7. Ely Seminar 7th May

The arrangements and speakers were being finalised. It was agreed that it should be advertised to the RSA. **[NB/PL]**

8. Newsletter

The next e-Newsletter would be produced in Spring 2011 and would be a link to a webpage rather than sent as an attachment. **[NB]**

9. Website

Noted.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date of next meeting:

15th June 2011 at 10.30am at Wandlebury Country Park