

National Heritage Memorial Fund Meeting on 17 October 2017

B 2017 (8)

Minutes of the Board meeting held on 17 October 2017 at 9:30a.m. at 7 Holbein Place, London, SW1W 8NR

Present:

- Peter Luff (Chair)
- Anna Carragher
- Neil Cossons
- Angela Dean
- Perdita Hunt
- Steve Miller
- Richard Morris
- Atul Patel
- Seona Reid
- Tom Tew

Apologies

- Kay Andrews
- Jim Dixon

Board Business

1. Chair's Report

B 2017 (8) 1

The Board noted the report. The Chair had attended a positive event to promote diversity in public appointments, organised by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Following his reappointment Jim Dixon would become trustee member of the Committee for the East Midlands.

2. Chief Executive's Report

B 2017 (8) 2

The Board noted the report. A further draft of the tailored review report had been received for comment; no date publication had yet been indicated. DCMS had commenced work on a heritage priorities statement, slated for 5 December. HLF had been asked to provide some input.

The Chair and Chief Executive had had a productive meeting with DCMS and counterparts at Arts Council England to discuss taking forward the Museums Review.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 26 September 2017

B 2017 (8) 3

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

B 2017 (8) 4

There were no matters arising.

5. Declarations of Interest

Oral

Steve Miller noted in relation to The Brecks (item 19) that Ancient House Museum, of which he had oversight in his role as Assistant Director, Cultural Services at Norfolk County Council, was noted as one of a large number of project partners.

Tom Tew noted in relation to Upper Thames (item 31) that he was working with many of the partners on a separate project.

The Chair noted that the Vale of Evesham (item 36) was his former parliamentary constituency, and that he was a member of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Perdita Hunt noted that she was a member of the National Trust advisory committee on collections and interpretation. The National Trust was the applicant for Skell Landscape Project (item 38) and cited as partner in others.

None had any involvement or prior knowledge of the projects highlighted. The Board was content that these did not constitute conflicts of interest.

6. Finance and Corporate Services Report

Oral

Colin Bailey, Director of Finance and Corporate Services reported that income in September had been £25m and remained on course for £305m for the financial year. The Board noted that the Heritage Impact Fund project (item 14) was a fast track application and as such, although a second round application, would be scored against the first round budget.

6a. Finance, Staffing and Resources Committee Feedback

Oral

Atul Patel, Committee Chair, reported on the most recent meeting.

7. Lottery Income Update

Oral

Colin Bailey updated the Board on work undertaken since the last meeting to model the impact on future income of a range of interventions. The Board offered feedback and would discuss further options and their associated risks in November.

8. Strategy and Business Development Report

B 2017 (8) 8

Judy Cligman, Director of Strategy and Business Development introduced the report. The Board noted work underway to develop potential options for income diversification. They agreed that grants management services could be pursued most straightforwardly and had the closest fit to existing skills and capabilities. Others would require further development and potentially external expertise to ascertain the extent of the market for any opportunities. Crowdfunding was a busy market, although the pilot with ACE to investigate potential in the cultural sectors had produced interesting and encouraging results.

The first second round application from the Skills for the Future batch approved by delegated panel in February was presented for decision. South West Wildlife Trust sought funding for a three year trainee programme in natural heritage conservation and engagement skills. The Board **AWARDED** a grant of £501,100 (90% of eligible costs).

9. NHMF Report

B 2017 (8) 9

The Board noted the report.

10. Funding Framework Update

B 2017 (8) 10

Anne Young, Head of Strategic and Corporate Planning, introduced the report.

The Board agreed to launch the consultation in January, to allow time for Museums Review and Tailored Review to be published and for any decisions on income for future years to be reached.

11. Communications Report

B 2017 (8) 11

The Board noted the report.

12. HLF Operations Report

Oral

Eilish McGuinness, Director of Operations, provided a brief update.

13. Annual Review of Delegated Grants

B 2017 (8) 13

Anne Jenkins, Deputy Director of Operations, introduced the report. Applications had increased by 15% in 2016/17, with just under half of these from first time applicants. Resilient Heritage was proving popular and some fuller analysis would be undertaken. Trustees observed the value of attending small delegated grants advisory meetings, and the how smaller grants often resonated disproportionately in local communities.

SF4 fast track applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

14. Heritage Impact Fund; HG-17-03105

B 2017 (8) 14

Applicant: Architectural Heritage Fund

Request: Grant of £2,500,000 (92% of eligible costs)

Project: Establishment of a loan facility to provide working capital and capital investment loans to support 45-50 heritage projects over seven years. A Business Angel capacity building programme would provide business support to organisations experiencing financial difficulties.

The Board awarded a grant of £2,500,000, 92% of eligible costs

Reports

15. Parks for People Report

B 2017 (8) 15

Drew Bennellick, Head of Natural Heritage and Chris Falconer, Programme Manager, introduced the report. They provided an overview of decisions made by HLF and Big Lottery Fund by delegated panel in June. An increasing variety of sites were being supported, with evidence of more explicit social benefits and stronger nature benefits.

A cross government working group had been set up to look at the future of parks, chaired by a minister; HLF had been invited to join.

For the future there was potential to move more generally from a maintenance approach to a sustainability approach to supporting parks, which may involve operating more strategically. Big Lottery Fund were attracted to this approach and, whilst engagement to date had been in England only, there was potential that they may be able to support it on a UK wide basis.

The Board agreed that the Parks for People programme and wider initiatives were being well managed and producing valuable outcomes. HLF was providing strong thought leadership in a complex environment.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Landscape Partnerships

16. Landscape Partnership Overview

B 2017 (8) 16

The Board noted the overview.

17. Stort Valley Meadowlands- Landscapes Partnership Scheme; LP-16-00941

B 2017 (8) 17

Applicant: Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £1,803,100, including development grant of £237,000

Project: To address conservation needs of the Stort Valley Meadowlands, whilst up-skilling people to establish a landscape management approach. The heritage and significance of the meadowlands would be interpreted and a programme of activities delivered to engage communities with the landscape. These aims will be delivered through three programmes: the revival of the heritage of the Meadowlands; to reconnect people with the meadowlands, its history and cultural landscape; and to reveal the meadowlands.

The Committee for the East of England had recommended the project as a high priority (2 of 2) to the Board for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority. The application was **REJECTED** in light of the available budget.

18. The Stour and Orwell Landscape Partnership; life on Suffolk and Essex's saltwater border; LP-16-05400

B 2017 (8) 18

Applicant: Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Request: First Round Pass of £1,545,100, including Development Grant of £95,100

Project: To conserve the nationally important birdlife whilst maximising the social, well-being and recreational potential of the area, conserve the historic parklands and veteran trees, promote opportunities away from environmentally sensitive areas, reconnect local people to their heritage through cultural and learning activities, increase the value of tourism and support local groups and individuals to build capacity in their areas.

The Committee for the East of England had recommended the project as a medium priority for support.

The Board **REJECTED** the project.

19. The Brecks: Fen Edge & Rivers Landscape Partnership; LP-16-06805

B 2017 (8) 19

Applicant: Suffolk County Council

Request: First Round Pass of £2,121,500, including Development Grant of £151,100

Project: To explore, restore and celebrate the Brecks edge of the fens to raise awareness of water resource issues, to restore river and habitat corridors, and discover the historic links between human settlement and water. Activities for schools, landowners, and communities would highlight the value and sensitivity of water resources in the area, creating a legacy of awareness and conservation.

The Committee for the East of England had recommended the project as a high priority (1 of 2) to the Board for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £2,121,500, including a development grant of £151,100 (53% of eligible development costs).

20. The Chronicles of Charnwood; LP-16-02021

B 2017 (8) 20

Applicant: National Forest Company

Request: First round pass of £2,943,700, including development grant of £176,400 (73%)

Project: Five year project to celebrate the legacy of Charnwood's rich volcanic origins, interpreting its landscape and the wildlife and people that inhabit it. A joined up network of walking and cycling routes would be created with themed guides to navigating the area, whether by foot, cycle, bus or rail. An extensive activity programme would include research into local heritage by local groups and universities, arts and events and a schools programme. A coordinated approach to protecting geology, wildlife habitats and species would be established, access to historic buildings improved and the local visitor economy boosted.

The Committee for the East Midlands had recommended the project to the Board as a high priority for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £2,943,700, including development grant of £176,400 (73% of eligible development costs).

21. North Yorkshire Cliffs; LP-16-06240

B 2017 (8) 21

Applicant: Groundwork North East (Middlesbrough)

Request: First Round Pass of £2,606,700 including a development grant of £170,000 (79%)

Project: To celebrate the heritage of the coast from Saltburn in Redcar and Cleveland to Sandsend in North Yorkshire. The scheme would place a focus on delivering improvements to the natural environment in order to develop a more robust tourist economy. Activities would include: community archaeology surveys and digs; geology activities; a programme of guided exploration and programme of action and learning activity to address water pollution. Improvements to two built heritage structures would be delivered. A programme of access improvements would link inland communities to the England Coastal Path, improve disabled access at key points and create three new easy circular walk routes. A volunteer body of 200 North Yorks Cliffs Ambassadors would be established, including 18 apprentices. Third party grant schemes would be made available for specific purposes.

The Committee for the North East had recommended that the Board **REJECT** the application.

The Board **REJECTED** the application.

22. Tyne to Tees, Shores and Seas- Seascape Partnership; LP-16-00008

B 2017 (8) 22

Applicant: Durham Heritage Coast

Request: First Round Pass of £2,998,100, including a development grant of £201,600 (81% of eligible development costs)

Project: The hidden heritage of the coastal area between the rivers Tyne and Tees would be revealed and wider coastal communities engaged with the unique seascape to establish stewardship of the area for generations to come. Four interlinked themes would cover a broad history, deliver the programme aims and increase visitor numbers. Training and volunteering opportunities would be created, building skills in identifying, recording, mapping, assessing and understanding the heritage. Access to the natural heritage would be increased through improvements to physical and virtual access. Built heritage would be restored and interpreted, ten interpretation 'stations' would be developed and a new educational facility would be built to act as a hub for the area.

The Committee for the North East had recommended the application to the Board as a high priority for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £2,998,100, including a development grant of £201,600 (81% of eligible development costs)

23. Dee to Sea Landscape Partnership Scheme (D2C): Reconnecting People and Wildlife in the Dee Estuary; LP-16-07947

B 2017 (8) 23

Applicant: Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £2,286,900, including development grant of £203,400 (75%)

Project: A vision to breathe new life into the area around the River Dee Estuary by uniting communities, individuals and decision makers behind a common goal of creating and increasingly resilient, more loved and better connected landscape. The scheme would improve the landscape's ecology and restore estuarine historical features and engage people and communities through events, Citizen Science and skills development.

The Committee for the North West had recommended the application to the Board as a high (2 of 2) priority for support.

The Board agreed the project was a medium priority and **REJECTED** the application in light of the available budget and concerns raised.

24. Fellfoot Forward; LP-17-01185

B 2017 (8) 24

Applicant: North Pennines AONB Partnership

Request: First Round Pass of £2,230,700, including development grant of £161,300 (87%)

Project: A scheme to ensure this part of north east Cumbria, rich in cultural and natural heritage, was cared for by the community, providing functions people value. Community projects and events would be delivered, increasing understanding of local heritage. Partnerships would be created to deliver conservation projects to address environmental challenges and sustain landscape character and training would be developed including six conservation traineeships and heritage skills courses with Newton Rigg and Carlisle Colleges.

The Committee for the North West had recommended the application to the Board as a high priority (1 of 2) for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £2,230,700, including development grant of £161,300 (87% of total eligible development costs)

25. Reconnecting the Community to the River Foyle; LP-17-00783

B 2017 (8) 25

Applicant: Loughs Agency

Request: First Round Pass of £3,000,000 including a development grant of £135,000 (79%)

Project: Located in north-west Northern Ireland between the Sperrin Mountains and the border with the Republic of Ireland, the scheme aimed to redress contemporary dereliction and reinvigorate the river and reconnect communities with it. The project would conserve and restore natural heritage features, research, preserve and celebrate the area's cultural heritage whilst increasing awareness and understanding of the Foyle's heritage through interpretation. A volunteer and training programme would also be offered.

The Committee for Northern Ireland recommended the project as a medium priority for support.

The Board **REJECTED** the application.

26. Coast Connect- the drumlin coast of Strangford and Lecale; LP-17-00882

B 2017 (8) 26

Applicant: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Request: First Round Pass of £2,697,100 including a development grant of £176,400 (69% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To empower local people to create a motivated and skilled volunteer network to understand, protect, access and celebrate the area's coastal heritage. The scheme area would be located in the coastal landscape of the Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB.

The Committee for Northern Ireland recommended that the project should be rejected due to the concerns raised.

The Board **REJECTED** the application.

27. Binevenagh and coastal lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme; LP-17-01395

B 2017 (8) 27

Applicant: Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £2,887,500 including a development grant of £204,200 (79%)

Project: To raise awareness of local heritage and history, research, record and protect key heritage features and coherently manage the area by promoting sustainable regeneration/conservation opportunities. Achieving UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status was its overall aim. Such reserves were areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each reserve promoted solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. There would also be volunteering opportunities.

The Committee for Northern Ireland had recommended the project as a high priority for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £2,887,500 including a development grant of £204,200 (79% of total eligible development costs)

28. Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership; LP-16-09041

B 2017 (8) 28

Applicant: East Ayrshire Council

Request: First Round Pass of £2,562,900, including development grant of £194,900 (49%)

Project: Focussing on the industrialised heartland of East Ayrshire with a boundary of 250km², the project would take a collaborative approach to conserving habitats and enabling the community to connect with their environment by providing better physical access and greater engagement ensuring a more sustainable environment. Four potential themes had been identified to support the delivery of the project and these included: reveal past lives, equip people with skills, address threats to heritage and creative opportunities for learning, recreation and well-being.

The Committee for Scotland had recommended the project as a high priority (1 of 2) for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £2,562,900, including a development grant of £194,900 (49% of total eligible development costs).

29. Connecting the Tweed: a catchment scale approach to addressing issues from Source to Sea; LP-17-01468

B 2017 (8) 29

Applicant: Tweed Forum

Request: First Round Pass of £2,997,900, including a development grant of £299,900 (70%)

Project: To focus on the rich heritage associated with the River Tweed; from its source in the Tweedsmuir hills, to where it meets the sea at Berwick-upon-Tweed. The project aimed to deliver multiple benefits for the natural, built and cultural heritage at a catchment scale level and to reconnect local people with the river and its land, increasing understanding and fostering a new sense of stewardship.

The Committee for Scotland recommended the project as a high priority (2 of 2), for support.

The Board agreed the project was a medium priority and **REJECTED** the project in light of the concerns and available budget

30. Watercress and Winterbournes - Hampshire's Chalk River Headwaters Landscape Partnership Scheme; LP-15-08410

B 2017 (8) 30

Applicant: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £2,207,200 including development grant of £269,400 (69%)

Project: To enable communities in the catchment to take a central role in caring for their local headwaters, increase the headwaters' water quality and biodiversity, re-establish traditional conservation skills for natural and built heritage and encourage communities to value their heritage environment through deeper understanding.

The Committee for South East England had recommended the project a high priority (1 of 2) for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £2,207,200, including a development grant of £269,400 (69% of total eligible development costs)

31. Upper Thames Landscape Partnership; LP-16-08588

B 2017 (8) 31

Applicant: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £2,791,100 including development grant of £129,800 (86%)

Project: Focusing on the floodplain of the Upper Thames region, from Somerford Keynes in Gloucestershire to Oxford city centre, the project would deliver three integrated programmes of works and activities focusing on seven heritage themes. It would involve capital works to waterways and floodplain mosaics, the restoration of significant natural heritage sites and small built heritage features and a series of community engagement activities.

The Committee for South East England has recommended the project as a medium priority for support.

The Board **REJECTED** the application.

32. Whose Hoo; LP-16-08779

B 2017 (8) 32

Applicant: RSPB South East

Request: First Round Pass of £1,703,600 including a development grant of £109,400 (69%)

Project: To increase the Hoo Peninsula's resilience in the face of current and upcoming challenges to the landscape and heritage. It would restore, reconnect, interpret and celebrate the Peninsula's wildlife habitats, landscape features, buildings and cultural heritage. Alongside these works there would be a range of volunteering, learning and access opportunities for the landscape's inhabitants and visitors.

The Committee for South East England considered the project a high priority (2 of 2) for support

The Board agreed the project was a high priority for support. The application was **REJECTED** in light of the available funding.

33. Quantock Hills Landscape Partnership - Reimagining the Manor; LP-16-07486

B 2017 (8) 33

Applicant: Quantock Hills AONB Service

Request: A first round pass of £1,902,200, including a development grant of £91,300 (90%)

Project: A 5 year scheme of 26 projects that would focus on the cultural and natural heritage of the Quantock Hills, grouped under the 3 themes of Inspire, Live and Learn. The Landscape Partnership area was 193 km² and included the AONB in the centre with a ring around it including the principal landscape characters, encompassing many of the local settlements.

The Committee for the South West had recommended the application as a high priority (1 of 2) for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £1,902,200, including a development grant of £91,300 (90% of total eligible development costs).

34. The Tamara Landscape Partnership; LP-16-08859

B 2017 (8) 34

Applicant: Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Request: First Round Pass of £2,493,950, including a development grant of £180,400 (66%)

Project: A 5-year scheme to conserve and restore the landscape of the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher Rivers on the Devon/Cornwall border. Accessibility would be improved and new land management approaches trialled. Communities would be engaged with the heritage of the landscape through events, volunteering opportunities and training placements. The scheme would incorporate 12 proposed projects, organised into three categories: projects for heritage, projects for communities and projects for people.

The Committee for the South West recommended the application to the Board as a high priority (2 of 2) for support.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority for support. The scheme was **REJECTED** in light of the available budget.

35. Reconnecting the ancient sites of the Marches by enhancing the natural & cultural history; LP-17-00972

B 2017 (8) 35

Applicant: Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

Request: First Round Pass of £632,400 including development grant of £37,400 (76%)

Project: A six year scheme to restore the health of the Ireland Moor landscape in eastern Powys through championing the history and good management of heather moorland, improving habitats and biodiversity. Access would be improved through repairs to paths, hedge boundaries and stone walls and new signage. A programme of activities including a moorland festival, educational events and oral history projects would be delivered in association with the scheme.

The Committee for Wales recommended the project for rejection.

The Board **REJECTED** the application.

36. The Vale of Evesham - the Nation's Vegetable Patch; LP-16-09196

B 2017 (8) 36

Applicant: Worcester County Council

Request: First Round Pass of £2,525,400, including a development grant of £275,400 (71% of total eligible development costs)

Project: To enable the hidden beauty and fascination of the Vales of Evesham to be revealed, understood and nurtured by local people and visitors and to make the Vale's unique landscape, natural habitats and cultural heritage integral to a flourishing, sustainable and globally recognised horticultural identity. Four programmes of work would be delivered to link communities with the landscape and heritage through learning. Conservation works and the restoration of natural habitats and built features would be undertaken and physical access to the landscape would be improved.

The Committee for the West Midlands had recommended the application to the Board as a high priority.

The Board agreed the project was a high priority. The application was **REJECTED** in light of the available budget.

37. Calder Valley Rising; LP-16-01059

B 2017 (8) 37

Applicant: Calder Valley Rising

Request: First Round Pass of £2,994,300 including a development grant of £206,900 (90%)

Project: To safeguard heritage and support resilient communities by delivering a Natural Flood Management Scheme, reinstating landscape and habitat features of woodland that run the length of the Calder Valley, improving physical access to the natural and industrial cultural heritage and removing non-native species. Volunteering and training opportunities would also be provided to the local community.

The Committee for Yorkshire and the Humber had recommended the project a low priority for support.

The Board **REJECTED** the application.

38. Skell Landscape Project- restoring the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the catchment; LP-15-05622

B 2017 (8) 38

Applicant: National Trust – Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate

Request: First Round Pass of £2,282,100 including development grant of £160,300 including a development grant of £160,300 (70%)

Project: To alleviate flood risk and improve water quality along North Yorkshire's Skell River. The Scheme would aim to improve the condition of, and engagement with the built and natural environment around the World Heritage Site. Alongside works to protect and restore heritage sites and features, the project would involve local people and visitors through volunteering opportunities and learning activities.

The Committee for Yorkshire and the Humber recommended the project as a high priority for support.

The Board agreed the project was a medium priority. The project was rejected in light of the concerns raised and the available budget.

39. Prioritisation of first round items

Oral

The Board had rejected:

- The Stour and Orwell Landscape Partnership (item 18); North Yorkshire Cliffs (item 21); Reconnecting the community to the River Foyle (item 25); Coast Connect – the Drumlin Coast (item 26); Upper Thames Landscape Partnership (item 31); Reconnecting the ancient sites of the Marches (item 35); and Calder Valley Rising (item 37).

The Board agreed:

- Stort Valley Meadowlands (item 17); The Brecks: Fen Edge & Rivers (item 19); The Chronicles of Charnwood (item 20); Tyne to Tees, Shores and Seas – Seascape Partnership (item 22); Fellfoot Forward (item 24); Binevenagh and coastal lowlands (item 27); Coalfield Communities (item 28); Watercress and Winterbournes – Hampshires Chalk River Headwaters (item 30); Whose Hoo (item 32); Quantock Hills (item 33); The Tamara Landscape Partnership (item 34); and the Vale of Evesham (item 36) were a high priority for support.
- Dee to Sea Landscape Partnership (23); Connecting the Tweed (item 29); and Skell Landscape Project (item 38) were a medium priority for support.

There was insufficient budget to support all high priority schemes. The Board rejected all the medium priority schemes in light of this and the concerns raised.

The Board reconsidered all high priority schemes in light of the available budget of £20million and their geographic distribution. They awarded first round passes and development grants to eight schemes and rejected:

- Stort Valley Meadowlands (item 17); Whose Hoo (item 32); The Tamara Landscape Partnership (item 34); and the Vale of Evesham (item 36).

Papers for Information

40. Schedule of Delegated Decisions

B 2017 (8) 40

The Board noted the Schedule of Delegated Decisions which had been circulated electronically.

41. Any other business

Oral

There was no other business.

The next meeting will be held on 14 November 2017.