

SELRC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

BRISTOL, EH OFFICES
WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH 2005

Present: Nigel Nayling (NN), Richard Brunning (RB), Julie Jones (JJ), Vanessa Straker (VS), Rick Turner (RT), Martin Bell (MB), Steven Rippon (SR), Dave Evans (DE), David Haigh (DH) and Neil Maylan (NM)

1. Apologies for absence

Elizabeth Walker, Jan Wills, John Allen, Paul Davies, Bob Jones

2. Storage of back issues of publications

This is a continuing problem although it will be eased slightly by the reduced print run. After discussion it was resolved to reduce the stored volumes to a maximum of 50 copies of each volume except for volume 11 which would have 70. Any copies remaining over this figure that had not been disposed of by spring 2006 would be pulped or burned (possibility of inviting minor royal to attend book burning ceremony in Nazi uniform was rejected). Where possible sets could be given to University libraries (RB- how many of the c.40 Universities doing archaeology in the UK had sets of papers?) and local societies etc where they do not already have them. Another possibility would be to advertise them to WARP and CBA SW members (and other relevant period and topic groups) at postage costs +50p (ie £2). Also possible free copies to selected foreign Universities and free copies to foreign WARP delegates to the Edinburgh conference to widen the reach abroad.

Action: all to investigate possibilities for disposing of volumes

VS to investigate possibilities with Oxbow Books, Castle Books etc

JJ to see which Universities subscribe

Update: RB has contacted Heritage Marketing and Publications who sell a lot online. They have provisionally agreed to take 50 copies of each volume(6-12) for sale at a low price to be agreed with SELRC

3. This years AGM

All considered it to be very successful with excellent turn out. Venue thought to be good. Made healthy profit.

4. Severn Estuary Partnership Cultural Heritage Strand

RB asked if anyone knew what was happening with this as all had gone quiet since Richard Osgood left.

Action: DH and RT to investigate

Update: DH reported the following communication from Gillian Ellis-King South Glos; Richard Osgood is doing the work on a casual basis. He has done a lot of the ground work, and will soon be drafting a planning related document which no doubt will be circulated to the group. We have allowed the nature conservation work to go ahead so that we do not reinvent the wheel in terms of general focus, content and graphic approach.

5. 2005 AGM, venue, speakers etc

RT suggested Chepstow again and this was greeted with general approval. RB pointed out that the venue was usually changed every year and alternated between Wales and England and that the 2004 conference had been carefully tailored to appeal to local tastes and that this might not be possible for two years in a row. These reservations were considered not to be a significant deterrent.

Action: RB to book venue for 29th October and publicise

Speaker suggestions – RB suggested Simon Haslett (Somerset Tsunami of 1607) and someone on the Dover Boat to please the nautical public and FONS. RT suggested Ken Murphy (picturesque walks along Wye Valley man). NN suggested speakers from ‘up river’ (Rob Jackson? Martin Bates?). Other suggestions included Roger Jacobi on the palaeolithic and a MoLAS speaker on the sub tidal aggregates project.

Action: RB to contact Simon Haslett (and poss Roger Jacobi), **NN** to contact Dover Boat and up river folk, **RT** to contact Ken Murphy.

Update: venue booked for 29th October and Simon Haslett has agreed to speak

6. Development and research proposals

- New M4 relief road (DBFO being considered)
- Avon mouth coastal development
- Rapid Coastal zone assessment (EH) – SELRC steering committee to see draft PD for comment
- More large warehouses at Gwent Europark. RB asked about publication of previous work there – told to ask Andy Marvell (**Action:RB**)
- Rumney Great Wharf development by EA – MB highlighted lack of reference to the significance of the site as highlighted by the work of John Allen
- More EA flood defence works along the Severn in Somerset and former Avon

7. Web site

EH had indicated that a revamped website could host the end product of aggregates levy fund projects. CADW and EH had both indicated possibility of £1-2K to assist in bid for website development. NN was sounding out Lampeter Univ as host organisation

Action: NN and **RB** to sort out HLF bid.

8. Editors update

Discussion focused on the need to find a replacement editor to replace PD. John Allen was willing to handle the refereeing side but someone needed to get the publication ready for printing. Short Run Press might be a possibility. RB and JJ said they knew people who did similar work.

Action: JJ and **RB** to obtain estimates

Update: JJ obtained quote from AMR design for £1,960 based on 100 pages

RB obtained quote from Atombowl (recently did heritage book for SCC) for £1,000 based on last issue (120 pages) but might be lower in practise

RB had quotes from Short Run press for typesetting from word at £6/page and £5 for each illustration to scan (last issue would work out at c. £1,100)

JJ has worked out that we could possibly stretch to £1,000 a year but this would use up all the potential spare cash and in a bad year would run down the reserve.

9. Financial update

JJ provided accounts up till 31/12/2004. Healthy balance of £4,199 but subs and sales only just matched the cost of the publication. Publication costs had reduced significantly in 2004 from 2003 levels partly due to reduced print run. AGM had made profit of c. £700 (2003 AGM profit was c.£200). JJ highlighted danger of funds decreasing if no publication grants and new expenses.

10. New committee members (treasurer and publications officer)

Neither post had been filled. Toby Parker, Emma Tetlow, Elizabeth Walker and Ray Capel (?) to be asked. JJ and VS were thanked for staying on temporarily to cover the crisis.

Action: VS to ask Toby Parker

MB to ask Emma Tetlow

RT (?) to ask Elizabeth Walker

11. Field Visits 2005

Alex Brown – Oldbury

Nigel Nayling – Newport ship visit

12. Proposal for wider remit of SELRC to include the river as well as the estuary

This proposal had been made to SELRC at the recent aggregates levy fund meeting that many steering committee members had attended. RT suggested a parallel body for the upriver and sharing the journal. MB highlighted benefits of expansion – new members and officers and audience and shared archaeological and environmental issues and new income and invigorated academic agenda. RB said shared issues only related to the upriver floodplain and if expanded to include surrounding dryland (as proposed) this would considerably change the focus of SELRC away from wetlands to more general archaeology and would therefore loose the point of SELRC. SR highlighted danger in expanding remit in loosing focus of SELRC and uncertainty over how a new remit might change SELRC. DE thought a good idea to open up the journal to up river topics. NN suggested that parallel organisations, river papers in the journal, possible joint meetings and joint membership were the way ahead. Meeting broadly in favour.

Action: NN and **RB** to draft response for circulation to SC members to approve

13. AOB

VS mentioned that Peter Murphy was now the EH coastal strategy officer based with the maritime team in Portsmouth.