

## ***PLACES OF WORSHIP@HERITAGE LINK***

### **STEERING GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009 AT SAINT GEORGE'S GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 55 ALIE STREET, LONDON E1 8EB**

##### **Present**

Crispin Truman (in the Chair)

Jenny Freeman

Kate Pugh

Diana Evans (observer)

Deborah Jarman

Caroline Egerton

Rebecca Payne

Andrew Edwards

Alex Glanville

Gerry Prosser

Janet Gough

##### **Apologies**

Neil Sumner

Ian Serjeant

Trevor Cooper

Graham Jones

Nigel Robb

Lynn Johnson

### **1. Introduction and apologies**

1.1 Crispin welcomed members to the Steering Group's fifth meeting. Apologies had been received from those listed above.

### **2. Minutes of second meeting and matters arising**

2.1 The minutes were approved, as amended in the light of members' comments on the draft and circulated for the present meeting.

2.2 The following points were noted as matters arising:

- Kate Pugh reported that she had asked the Historic Environment Advisory Committee for Scotland (HEACS) when they are producing a final report. She will inform the other members when it is ready.
- Jenny Freeman reported that she has had an enquiry about helping to set up a redundant churches trust in Ireland. She is considering the matter.

### **3. Update Report from Deborah Jarman**

3.1 Deborah Jarman described her progress as follows:

**1) Steering Group Meetings** Minutes can now also be viewed on the POWlink pages of the HL website.

**2) Website** The POWlink website now has:

- a List of members, with links to their own websites,

- a Library page with pdf versions of POW WOW Issue 1 and the last Steering Group Minutes,
- a Success Stories page, with 11 case study churches on it, all with links to their own websites. So far, 3 out of the 11 also have an in depth profile produced from returned questionnaires. Another 5 will be added very soon. At present, there are difficulties uploading images onto the website. This will hopefully be resolved soon.

**3) POW WOW Issue One** was produced and sent out to all Steering Group members, & all POWlink members in early March. It was put on the POWlink website and a link to the website was placed in Heritage Link Update. This resulted in well over 20 emails asking either to join POWlink or to be put on a mailing list for POW WOW, from a large variety of different people & organisations. A separate POW WOW mailing list has been set up for future issues.

**4) Parliamentary** The APPG Meeting booked for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February had to be cancelled due to heavy snowfall. Two further APPG Meeting dates have been arranged, for the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and the 13<sup>th</sup> of July – is this right?. Jenny Abramsky has been re-booked for the July meeting and a speaker is still sought for April. POWlink has received an invitation to the launch of 'Faith Buildings: Realising the Potential' next Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at noon on the steps of St. Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, CT will be there and DJ will do her best to attend.

**5) Annual Meeting** Date confirmed as the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, St Paul's Bow booked as venue. Cost of space hire and lunch quoted in writing by venue manager. Theme arranged and speakers all booked & confirmed:

- Rev Philippa Boardman, Vicar of St Pauls
- Alex Sherratt and Anne Williams, Matthew Lloyd Architects
- Maggie Durran – Maggie Durran Consulting
- Diana Evans – Head of Places of Worship Policy, English Heritage
- Emma Tutton – Project Manager, The Building Exploratory

Formal invitations sent out to all POWlink members, Steering Group members, and APPG members.

#### **4. Funding for church buildings – report from Becky Payne**

4.1 Becky Payne announced the launch of the report 'Faith Buildings: Realising the Potential' next Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of March, at a ceremony at St Martin in the Fields, attended by Any Burnham, Minister of Culture, and The Bishop of London, among others.. The report has had input from five ministries – the Treasury, the DCMS, the DCLG, the OTS and DEFRA, all working in partnership with the Church of England, and looks at ways in which existing government funding can assist faith groups to support their local communities and operate at a strategic level. It clarifies sources of funding for which places of worship are eligible, and also provides them with advice on how to access money and how to adapt their buildings for community use. The late announcement of the launch means that a C of E press release had to be quickly drafted. It was agreed that POWlink should also draft a comment to be released at the same time. Becky agreed that she would send the embargoed C of E press release to Crispin so that he could add a suitable comment from POWlink, but pointed out that neither should be released before the launch on Tuesday.

#### **5 C of E cases where the Pastoral (Amendment) Measure has been used**

5.1 There will be a one day course in Oxford on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May entitled 'Planning and the Historic Environment: Sharing Church Space and the Pastoral Amendment Measure'. This would explain the role of the Pastoral Amendment measure, which came

into force at the beginning of 2007. It allows churches to lease part of their buildings to commercial organizations, provided that the rest of the building remains as a POW. Before the measure, the whole of such a church would have to be made redundant. Becky said that at least two churches had used the measure very successfully – one in Northampton, which had leased part of its building to a café, and one in Birmingham, which had leased part to an undertaker. In both cases, the new partnership had had very positive effects on the churches themselves.

5.2 Gerry Prosser, Alex Glanville and Jenny Freeman said that they had similar examples in the URC, the Church of Wales and the Historic Chapels Trust respectively; Deborah Jarman asked them for some examples for her case studies website pages. Kate Pugh will advertise for other examples of where the Pastoral Amendment Measure had been successfully used in HL Update.

## **6. Update on the position in Wales**

6.1 Alex Glanville reported on the current situation in the Church of Wales. Neil Sumner and the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust had had discussions with CADW about the prospect of making church buildings redundant and found the position very gloomy. They were looking together at more imaginative ways to prevent redundancies.

6.2 The Church of Wales have had discussions with the Welsh Heritage Minister and his Shadow opposite number and are planning to speak to the Faith Group and the Burials & Churchyards Group in the Welsh Assembly soon. They are hoping to involve the non-conformists in these discussions as well. The Church of Wales gets £500,000 from CADW each year, but has estimated that it needs £70million in the next 5 years simply to address existing problems. It also gets about £750,000 from the HLF. CADW gives £500 spring cleaning grants to churches which ask for them on a first come first serve basis.

6.3 The Church of Wales hopes to get funding from the HLF to set up a Church Heritage Officer post in Wales. They have already had some funding from CADW, and put some in themselves, and hope to have a person in post by the end of the year. Kate Pugh offered to advertise the vacancy in Update.

6.4 The Church of Wales is also trying to set up a forum for people concerned with POWs in Wales – they aspire to a County Trust model similar to the one that operates in England.

6.5 There are moves to establish a Welsh Heritage Link – the Welsh Assembly may fund a part time post based at the Civic Trust in Cardiff.

6.6 Gerry Prosser commented on the challenges facing the URC in Wales..

6.7 Crispin Truman commented that it was extremely useful to have an in depth report from one member of the Steering Group each meeting and asked for a volunteer for the next one.

## **7. Policy Development – Manifesto, VAT & PPS**

### **7.1**

- Crispin pointed out that POWlink faced some crunch policy times in the next year – a general election, a government spending review and a public spending crisis. POWlink needs to prepare a manifesto, to act as a briefing paper.

- Jenny Freeman pointed out that public money put into regeneration is very well spent in altering churches for secular purposes.
- Diana Evans said that the manifesto needed good statistics.
- Crispin Truman suggested that we could use figures already prepared by others including EH and the CofE.
- Kate Pugh suggested that the manifesto should put forward what POWlink's goals and ask – what does it want to change?
- DE pointed out that the recession will extend beyond the election – the manifesto should emphasize the importance of job creation in renovating POWs.
- KP asked if churches should continue to plead for special treatments as they had in the 2007 CSR prospectus Valuing our Heritage.
- Becky Payne pointed out that they are to be found in every community in the land; they have networks to vulnerable people; they are social buildings which heal fractured life styles which visitor attractions can't do, and their repair involves traditional craft skills.
- DE pointed out that they are buildings with no commercial value, cared for by volunteers – a great example of non commercial altruism.
- Janet Gough pointed out that the role of volunteers is a very important point. She wondered whether there are going to be fewer large scale projects applying for funding.
- Andrew Edwards said that the NCT believe that there will be far fewer large applications for funding in the near future.
- CT pointed out that there were many large urban churches coming to the ends of their lives, which would need to put in large bids. All bids should have good business plans, a social enterprise element and a willingness to work in partnership with experts.
- AE said that the manifesto should have a clear multi faith slant to it.
- Caroline Egerton commented other faiths had not shown much interest.
- BP pointed out that what she had said about POWs could apply equally to all faith groups.
- DE pointed out that members of the Church of England tend to think that they are looking after their buildings for the state, and that therefore the state owes them something. Other faith groups have a tradition of raising all the money they need for their buildings themselves.
- CT asked if the POWlink slant should be that it can bring faiths together – reconnecting communities and encouraging social integration.
- Alex Glanville pointed out that some church congregations are heroic fund raisers too.

## 7.2

- CT asked if the manifesto should mention VAT.
- JG said that it should campaign for the listed POW grant scheme to be prolonged.
- KP suggested POWlink should write to the Chancellor to ask him to confirm that this will happen. Between 2001 and 2009 the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme had given away over £87m – more than £1m per month. Has anyone done any evaluation on what would have happened without that money?
- JF said that POWlink should write to the Conservatives and Lib Dems as well.
- DE said that POWlink should write to the PM, not the Chancellor, and quote back his phrase – 'Heritage at the Heart of Communities' to him.
- BP said that POWlink should quote how much faith groups give back to communities.
- CT said that POWlink needs to extract the relevant figures. He said that he will produce a draft paper and email it round for comments.

- KP said that it would need to fit in with Heritage Link's other similar papers, be aware of context and the wider cultural prospectus. There is no point in asking for extra money. It will be important that the government doesn't take away more money for the Olympics.
- AE said that the McKinsey group should consider these issues – they may be able to provide the necessary figures.
- KP reported on the EC decision on VAT in March. The ECOFIN meeting had not agreed that members states would be able to reduce VAT on repairs and maintenance to cultural heritage on a list of specified services including the renovation and repair transformation maintenance and cleaning of places of worship, cultural heritage and historic monuments . The decision restricted the option to minor repairs and to renovation and repair of private dwellings as before. This meant the UK government would have to reconsider the LPOW scheme which had been an interim measure and is due to come to an end in March 2011. **ACTION: CT and DJ to draft policy manifesto**

### 7.3

- KP said The Planning Policy Statement 15 is due to be published around 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. It will be a series of high level policy statements with lots of supporting and more detailed guidance published afterwards. Heritage Link is planning a members' event in June to prepare a joint response. There is not a lot about how churches fit into wider planning issues in current Planning Policy Guidance 15 but it would be important to make sure that regard to the places of worship (redundant or not) appeared in the new PPS and Guidance.
- JF said it would help if the current paperwork was simplified – there is a lot of lack of clarity. It was suggested that there might be a presentation on churches in the June meeting.

## 8 – Fundraising for Future

8.1 POWlink has a year's funding from the NCT. CT, AE, DJ and KP had met recently to discuss how to secure years two and three. Although AE considered NCT would be prepared to continue some funding, this might be tapered so that further funding will be raised from other grant giving trusts and by starting to charge members. Bids need to be put into other trusts soon. The NCT trustees will be meeting in June.

## 9. Future APPG meetings

9.1 Deborah explained that although Jenny Abramsky had confirmed as the speaker for the APPG meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>, Lord Mawson was not available to speak on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. She asked for suggestions for substitutes. Three were made – Sophie Andraee, John Martin Robinson, or John Devine. She will pursue these possibilities. She was asked to remind the APPG members of the fixed meeting dates.

## 10. Categories of membership in POWlink

10.1 Deborah Jarman explained that as a result of the first issues of POW WOW being advertised in Update, she had had a lot of new requests from people either to join POWlink or receive copies of future POW WOWs. She asked for guidance as to which requesters could be offered membership and which could not. It was agreed that POWlink follows the Heritage Link pattern – of charging large affiliate members £500, small ones £100, and individual supporters £25 at present.

## 11 - Progress Report on 2009 Annual Meeting

This was covered in number 3 above.

## **12. – AOB**

- AE reminded everyone that there was a meeting of all the County Church Trusts at St Martins in the Fields on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. CE said that POWlink should produce their manifesto before that meeting.
- It was agreed that reliable statistics were vital in producing the manifesto. The McKinsey Group had a steering group looking at where their statistical research should focus. It was agreed that it would be very desirable to have a central collation of agreed relevant statistics. Given that the theme of the POWlink annual meeting is 'Where's the Evidence?' Deborah Jarman asked Andrew Edwards if he could supply her with the McKinsey group's contact details so that she could send them invitations to the meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.
- Jenny Freeman announced that the Historic Chapels Trust was about to launch a guide to Biddlestone Chapel.
- Crispin Truman said that the CCT had advertised for a volunteer to explore the possibility of a European network event, but had not had any applicants yet.

## **13. Future meetings**

The Steering Group's next meeting, will be at 2pm on Tuesday June 30th 2009, at the offices of the National Churches Trust, 31 Newbury Street, London EC1A 7HU. GP will provide an update on the work of the URC. Proposed dates for meetings in September and December will be brought to the next meeting.

Deborah Jarman  
Places of Worship Development Officer