

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** held on 9 August 2018 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor B Lewis

Also in attendance – Councillor R Flatley

21/18 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

22/18 **FUNDING FOR CRESWELL HERITAGE TRUST** Approval was sought to award Creswell Heritage Trust (CHT) a grant to cover its external costs in appointing a consultant to undertake a comparative study of other European, particularly northern European, Palaeolithic sites. The consultant would then assist in coordinating and presenting at a workshop and would develop the next technical submission to HM Government to evaluate the potential success of Creswell Crags being submitted to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for Inscription onto the World Heritage List.

One of the objectives of CHT was to pursue World Heritage Inscription for Creswell Crags. Derbyshire County Council had a stated commitment to “Support Creswell Crags to achieve World Heritage Status” in its Council Plan. To this end, Derbyshire County Council held £40,000 in an earmarked reserve to assist CHT to offset external costs in pursuing World Heritage Inscription. A ‘Task and Finish’ Group had been set up to assist CHT to forward its charitable objective in securing World Heritage Inscription.

Creswell Crags was included on HM Government’s Tentative List of sites to be put forward to UNESCO for consideration for World Heritage Inscription in 2011. Sites on the Tentative List nominally had 10 years to proceed to World Heritage Inscription. If this had not happened, or if no significant work had been undertaken to pursue inscription, then it was likely that a site would be removed from the Tentative List. Shortly after Creswell Crags was included on the Tentative List, CHT submitted information to HM Government for a Technical Review. The chief finding from that review was that the ‘Outstanding Universal Value’ OUV of Creswell Crags was not convincingly articulated and evidenced. The review also identified that a defensible Buffer Zone needed to be developed. To help substantiate Creswell Crags’ OUV it was recommended that CHT undertook a comparative

study of other European Palaeolithic sites, particularly northern European sites.

CHT had not undertaken any further work in pursuit of World Heritage Inscription since the first Technical Review. In order for CHT to be in a position to submit further information to HM Government for the next Technical Review, the comparative study needed to have been completed and a defensible Buffer Zone needed to have been developed. Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service had assisted CHT in developing a draft Buffer Zone for Creswell Crags. A Buffer Zone was an area surrounding a WHS which had complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed upon its use and development to give an added layer of protection. The next possible Technical Review 'slot' was autumn/winter 2018-19. To facilitate the material being ready for the Technical Review, it was proposed that CHT appointed a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to:

- i. undertake the comparative study in accordance with the brief that had been jointly developed between CHT, Derbyshire County Council and NCC;
- ii. feed into and present initial/developing findings of the comparative study at a workshop; and
- iii. compile and write the Technical Review submission.

The purpose of the planned workshop was to seek broad consensus that the comparative study substantiated that Creswell Crags had sufficient attributes that manifest values that equate to OUV; and the proposed Buffer Zone was defensible and appropriate. Notable academics, Historic England officers, landowner, officers and councillors from the district/borough and County councils, representatives from ICOMOS UK, representatives from World Heritage UK and representatives from recently inscribed sites on the World Heritage Tentative List would be invited to the workshop.

There was a very limited field of consultants who were able to undertake this commission due to the very specialist knowledge and experience that was required. However, CHT had identified a potential consultant with appropriate experience and expertise to undertake the commission. The consultant had produced a draft methodology and estimated cost breakdown which totalled £16,200. The figures did not include the workshop but, as the majority of the coordination and organisation of this would be undertaken by CHT, it was not envisaged that the consultant's additional costs would exceed £1,500.

It was proposed that CHT was offered a grant of £17,700 to cover its external costs in developing the submission material required by HM Government for the next Technical Review. It was also proposed that a contingency of £2,300 was identified from the £40,000 earmarked reserve in

case the costs identified in the report increased or if additional, associated work was required. It was proposed that any additional grant funding over the £17,700 was agreed between the Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism prior to any additional money being granted to CHT. CHT would be expected to supply clear justification for any additional monies over £17,700.

RESOLVED to (1) approve a grant of £17,700 to Creswell Heritage Trust;

(2) approve a contingency of £2,300 in case the costs identified in the report increased or if additional, associated work was required;

(3) approve that the Head of Conservation, Heritage and Design, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism be delegated to release the funding to Creswell Heritage Trust on submission of the appropriate evidence; and

(4) note that Derbyshire County Council's Conservation, Heritage and Design Service would be supporting the workshop by producing the Buffer Zone information for discussion and agreement.

23/18 TORR VALE MILL – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Approval was sought for Derbyshire County Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with High Peak Borough Council (HPBC), Historic England (HE), Torr Vale Mill Preservation Trust (TVMPT) and Torr Vale Mills Limited, as the owner of Torr Vale Mill.

Torr Vale Mill was included on the Secretary of State's statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and had a Grade II* entry. It was also included on HE's Heritage at Risk Register with a Priority Category: F. F being at the lower end of the Priority Category scale, although still of serious concern.

The redevelopment/regeneration of the Torr Vale Mill site had been a long-standing objective of both Derbyshire County Council and HPBC. The site used to have a Priority Category of B on HE's Heritage at Risk Register, however, the current owner had undertaken work to secure the fabric of the mill complex and had brought some of the buildings on the site back in to use. The Torr Vale Mill site was registered in the ownership of Torr Vale Mills Limited. Notwithstanding this, and the other works the owner intended to carry out, the site still had a number of difficulties. These, not exclusively, included: roofing repairs to the main mill building; access to the upper floors of the mill complex; and ensuring unimpeded vehicle access to the site.

In 2014, TVMPT, in Partnership with Torr Vale Mills Limited, appointed a consultant to undertake a feasibility study/development appraisal of the site which was funded by the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Unfortunately, during the production of the report, communication between the three parties broke down. Derbyshire County Council, HPBC and HE were not involved with the commissioning of the report.

The Heritage Lottery Fund had indicated that it would be willing to fund another feasibility study for the Torr Vale Mill Site. However, this was likely to be the last opportunity to secure funding for this activity. For this reason, it was proposed that Derbyshire County Council, HPBC and HE were engaged with the procurement and running of any feasibility/market appraisal to facilitate a successful outcome. To this end, the MoU had been drafted setting out the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties to ensure a good foundation from which to launch the process.

RESOLVED (1) to approve Derbyshire County Council entering into the Memorandum of Understanding with High Peak Borough Council, Historic England, Torr Vale Mill Preservation Trust and Torr Vale Mills Limited to help facilitate a successful outcome to a feasibility/market appraisal for the Torr Vale Mill site; and

(2) that the Council's input into the final version of the Memorandum of Understanding was undertaken in liaison between the Director of Legal Services and the Strategic Director Economy, Transport and Environment.

24/18 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES RESOLVED to approve the amendments to outside bodies as follows:-

(1) to replace Councillor S Spencer with Councillor T King as the Council's representative on the Derbyshire Environmental Trust;

(2) to appoint Councillor M Ford to the John Allsopp Educational Foundation;

(3) to note that Derbyshire Sport has been replaced by Active Partners Trust Board – Councillor C Hart was the Council's representative; and

(4) to note that the reference to Derbyshire Children's Trust Board should read Derbyshire Children's Partnership.