

DIRECTOR'S BUILDING COMMITTEEMinutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th February, 1963 11/13 SF

Present: Mr. T. B. Le Cren (Chairman)
Mr. J. E. Bown
Mr. D. J. Crabb
Mr. G. W. Dixon
Mr. N. N. Ferguson
Mr. R. M. Fishenden
Dr. J. E. M. Johnston
Mr. A. Cook - Secretary

Also Present: Mr. G. D. Clegg (W.E.G.)
Dr. D. T. Livey (for item 6)
Mr. C. G. Shaw (S.W.O.)
Mr. J. K. Thornton (S.W.O.)
Mr. D. Wood (for item 3)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. R. F. Jackson.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December, 1962

The minutes were accepted subject to one amendment. In the last line of minute 2(a) "Mr. A. G. Lindsell" should be amended to read "Mr. H. G. Lindsell".

2. Matters arising from the minutes

(a) A.E.A. Constabulary Training School (Min. 2(a) and BC(62)62)

Mr. Ferguson reported that this item was now closed, as the school would not be situated at Harwell.

(b) Contractor's areas on Site (Min. 2(c) and BC(62)58)

The Chairman referred to paragraph 5 of this paper and expressed doubt as to whether there was sufficient justification for moving the S.W.O. M. and E. Term Contractors at a cost of £4,000, when the contract would terminate in June 1964.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed that the Term Contractors should remain on their present site until the end of their contract in June 1964.

In discussing the proposal that Messrs. Chivers be permitted to continue to use the Canteen Building No. 438 the following points were made;

(1) Mr. Ferguson commented on the unsatisfactory conduct of some building workers. He thought it unfortunate that we should have to issue passes to building workers who used the canteen and refuse passes to members of the Rutherford Laboratory.

(2) Consideration should be given to the possibility of moving the wire, so that Building 438 would be outside; it seemed unlikely, however, that this would be possible.

(3) Mr. Bown pointed out that passes would, in any case, be needed for workers on the new Ceramics building, which was inside the wire, but thought that the issue of passes should cease thereafter as the other proposed major buildings would, during construction, be outside the wire.

It was decided to defer action on this proposal until the points raised in discussion had been investigated in more detail.

The Committee then examined the other clearance proposals attached to the paper as follows:-

Sheet 1 - Area adjoining Street Seventeen

- (i) Clearance of areas D and P, had been delayed because of the bad weather.
- (ii) Areas A, B, E, G, and L would be vacated by the contractors at the stated dates in 1963 without cost to the Authority.
- (iii) It was agreed that the time was now right for Mr. Clegg to resubmit the earlier proposals for transfer of the Robin Hangar in Area C, now occupied by W.E.G., to the new W.E.G. area.
- (iv) It was agreed to leave Aldens in occupation of area O until their contract terminated in June, 1964.
- (v) After discussion regarding the way in which the area should be tidied up, it was agreed that tenders should be sought for the removal of the huts and the foundations or concrete rafts on which they were built. Mr. Clegg would report back to the Committee on the result of tenders. It was agreed the runway should be left to provide possible future car parks.

Sheet 2 - Area adjoining Building 328

- (vi) Areas A, B and part of D (not occupied by S.W.O. term contractors) would be vacated by the contractors at the stated dates without cost to the Authority. It was agreed that tenders should be sought for the removal of the huts and their foundations.
- (vii) It was agreed to leave S.W.O. Term Contractors in occupation of part of area D until their Contract terminated in June, 1964.

Chivers Transport Area

- (viii) As soon as the snow cleared the area would be vacated and tenders would be sought for the removal of the buildings and their foundations.

Chivers Concrete Batching Plant

- (ix) This would be removed by 1st July, 1963.
- (c) Cost per square foot and per cubic foot of various types of building
(Min. 2(e) Amendment to paper EC(62)19)

Mr. Dixon reported that he had agreed figures with Mr. Crabb; he emphasised that these were based on prices ruling at December 1962. Two points were raised on standards:-

- (i) In the case of offices, 8' was now regarded as the standard ceiling height; the height of 9'6" for the 521.1 offices as shown in the paper was necessary because of the large drawing office included in the building.

- (ii) Mr. Ferguson considered that the specifications quoted for permanent car parks (6" concrete on 6" hard core) and footpaths (2" paving slabs on 2" sand on 3" hard core) were unnecessarily high.

Mr. Dixon accepted these points. The Chairman expressed the Committee's thanks to S.W.O. and Mr. Crabb for the preparation of this paper.

(d) Provision of additional Garages on Main Housing Estate at Wantage
(Min. 2(f))

Mr. Crabb reported that London Office approval for this scheme at an estimated cost of £7,200 including contingencies and the provision of electric points where appropriate was now being sought. It had not been possible to seek approval earlier, as planning permission for the erection of a number of prefabricated garages had only just been received.

(e) Administrative extension to Building 220 (Min. 2(g))

It was reported that the R.G.M.B. had given stage III approval to this scheme, at a cost not exceeding £30,000 for the work by S.W.O.

(f) Provision of additional garages and parking spaces for Rush Common House
(Min. 4 and BC(62)57)

Mr. Shaw reported that tenders for this scheme were due at the end of February in accordance with the programme. Details of the tenders would be presented to the next committee meeting.

3. New Stairwell Building 351 - BC(63)3

Mr. Clegg presented a paper seeking siting approval for a scheme for cladding in an existing stairwell, at an estimated cost of £325.

On behalf of the Director and on the Committee's recommendation, the Chairman gave siting approval to the proposal.

4. Review of Harwell Buildings - BC(63)2

The Chairman reported to the Committee some of the salient features of the remarks made on the Review, by the Chairman of the Research Group Management Board. The Chairman of the R.G.M.B. had referred to the fact that as high a proportion of the Gross National Product was now devoted to scientific research in the U.K. as in the U.S.A.

The question was being asked on what should the money available for scientific research be spent; in the case of the Authority, its spending would need to be judged in the light of its value in improving its scientific work. Thus although expenditure on replacing substandard accommodation might increase scientific efficiency, it would have to be considered whether it would do so to the same extent as the provision of a new piece of equipment. Capital expenditure could also be justified on economic grounds if it lead to reductions in operating expenditure. It was important, however, in current circumstances, that the period over which the capital expenditure could be recovered should not be too long.

Mr. Fishenden observed that other establishments continued to use M.O.W. standard hutting of a type scheduled for demolition at A.E.R.E.

In reply to a query by S.W.O., Mr. Ferguson explained that the work of converting building 150 into office accommodation would be carried out by the W.E.G.

5. Extensions to the Social Club Building 161

Mr. Le Cren presented for siting approval a proposal for minor modifications to the Social Club entrance. On behalf of the Director and on the Committee's recommendation, the Chairman gave siting approval to the proposal.

6. Ceramics Laboratory

Mr. Fishenden informed the Committee that following Stage I approval by the R.G.M.B. his working party had examined the specifications of the proposal. They had concluded that some reduction in the size of the conference room was possible and Metallurgy Division had accepted this point. They also felt that savings were possible to the office block by eliminating the overhang. They felt, however, that the Building Committee should advise on these points.

In discussion the following points were made:

- (a) By building offices on both the ground floor and the first floor, the overhang could be eliminated, and a saving of £1,350 or 0.5% of the total cost of the scheme effected. However, one of the objects of building the offices on the first floor was to exclude noise from the tearoom from the offices, and this would not be possible if offices were built on both floors.
- (b) It might be more economical to build another storey on the centre laboratory block, which would provide all the accommodation at present planned in the wing at the front of the building.
- (c) The deferment of the presentation of the proposals to the April meeting of the R.G.M.B. for stage III approval would not affect the programme provided detailed design could proceed whilst full approval was being obtained.

It was agreed:

- (i) That the scheme should be presented for detailed consideration at the March meeting of the Director's Building Committee.
- (ii) That S.W.O. should produce plans of the alternative schemes, and prepare a project estimate for each.

Dr. Johnston said that Health Physics and Medical Division would examine the proposals for the new schemes.

7. Revised Dates of Director's Building Committee Meetings 1963 - BC(63)1

The Secretary presented a paper proposing that, in future, Committee Meetings should be held on Wednesdays. In reply to a question from Mr. Ferguson, he said that the Assistant Director, who was a member of the Committee, wished to attend future meetings, but could not attend on a Tuesday. The revised dates were accepted.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The next meeting of the Committee will be in the Conference Room of the Cockcroft Hall at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 13th March, 1962.

The reference numbers BC(62)4 and BC(62)5 will no longer apply to the Extension to the Social Club, and the Ceramics Laboratory, which will henceforth be referred to by their Minute numbers.

Finance Branch,
Building 329.
Ext. 2783.

19th February, 1963.

Alan Cook
Secretary