

DIRECTOR'S BUILDING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Cockcroft Hall on
Wednesday 14th March, 1963.

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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
Mr. R. F. Jackson
Dr. J. E. M. Johnston
Mr. A. Cook - Secretary

Also Present:

Brig. G. Bell (for item 6)
Mr. H. Hall-Wilton (for item 3)
Mr. L. Fowler (for item 3)
Dr. D. T. Livey (for item 3)
Mr. P. B. Reade (for item 3)
Mr. C. G. Shaw (S.W.O.)
Dr. J. Thewlis (for item 3)

The Chairman welcomed Mr. R. F. Jackson to the Committee.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February, 1963

The minutes were accepted, subject to the following amendments: In minute 2(b), section 1(i) "areas D and P" should read "areas D and P", and in section (ii) "Areas A, B, E, G and L" should read "Areas A, B, E, G and L".

2. Matters arising from the minutes

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

Mr. Crabb reported that London Office approval had been received for an expenditure of not exceeding £7,200 and an I.T.P. had been issued.

(b) Provision of additional Garages and Parking Spaces for Rush Common House (Min. 2(f))

Mr. Shaw reported that, at the request of two of the contractors, the tender date had been extended to 13th March.

In response to a question from Mr. Ferguson, the Chairman said that, to avoid CGS delay, he would, on behalf of the Director, authorise Mr. Crabb to obtain London DJC Office approval for this scheme without further reference to the Committee providing the estimate based on tenders was lower than the previous estimate of £9,800.

3. New Ceramics Laboratory - HC(63)11

(i) Dr. Livey and Dr. Thewlis presented a paper seeking the Committee's approval (Stage II) for the erection of a building to accommodate high temperature ceramics research at an estimated cost of £230,000.

Mr. Shaw presented two alternative designs, each of which would cost approximately £230,000. These were to be referred to as Scheme (1) (SWO) and Scheme (2) (Mr. Bown).

(ii) Mr. Fowler said that both schemes were costed as accurately as possible, and that the increase over the £220,000 approved by the R.G.M.B., was due (a) to a recent wages award in the building industry which accounted for £7,000, and (b) to £2,000 for moveable furniture not included in the previous estimates. In response to a question from Mr. Jackson, he said that Scheme (2) was no cheaper because the saving in foundations etc., was offset by the cost of reinforcing the roof of the main block, to support the offices.

(iii) In discussion of the alternative schemes, the following points were made:-

(a) From a functional point of view, Metallurgy Division was equally satisfied with both schemes.

(b) Offices were larger in Scheme (2) because it was more economic for the first floor of the building to conform to the module of the ground floor.

(c) The apparent difference in gross area between the scheme presented to the R.G.M.B. (approximately 18,000 sq. ft.) and the schemes before the Committee (approximately 20,000 sq. ft.) was due to different bases of measurement.

(d) Although the plans provided for a large area of glass, only a small part would be exposed to the full south sun and it was not thought that overheating would be a problem. Conversely the heating installation had been designed to ensure that an adequate temperature was maintained in the north facing laboratories and offices.

(iv) The following points were made in reply to queries by Dr. Johnston on the width of corridors, ceiling heights, and wall finish:-

(a) In order to achieve localised control of work on active materials, it was desirable to be able to set up barriers in the corridors. The building of corridors seven feet wide would achieve three things; it would be a flexible arrangement, providing 11 possible control points, it would leave a five feet wide corridor when 1 foot wide lockers were installed on either side, and it would be cheaper than providing a narrower corridor with indentations at various points.

(b) Ten feet had been previously agreed as a reasonable ceiling height for laboratories.

(c) The estimate provided for plaster finish in the laboratories as it was not possible to produce a fairface finish on both sides of a brick wall.

(v) Mr. Fishenden opposed Scheme (1). He stated that he did not consider that there was any case for additional expenditure on architectural embellishment. In this case, economy should be the overriding consideration, even at a saving of only £1,500 to £2,000. Mr. Ferguson associated himself with these remarks.

(vi) The Committee recommended that Stage II approval should be given to Scheme I (Drawing No. SW/552/AK.21308 at a cost not exceeding £230,000. The Chairman said that as the cost (after adjustment for price increases) was so near to that previously agreed by the R.G.M.B., he would consult the Director as to whether the remission of the proposal to the R.G.M.B. for stage III approval was necessary.

DJC
GWD

In order that work on site could start in September, the Chairman agreed that design by S.W.O. should proceed within the sum of £10,000 whilst full approval was being obtained; none of the £10,000 would be spent on hired staff or consultants. Mr. Dixon agreed to submit a revised programme for the Ceramics building at the next meeting of the Committee.

4. Proposed extension to paint shop building 54 for Building Section - BC(63)8

Mr. Martin presented a paper seeking approval for an extension to the present paint shop at an estimated cost of £7,000.

The Chairman said that he had had doubts as to whether the Committee was competent to consider this scheme which was presently being examined by the Harwell Council as part of a more extensive proposal for improving W.E.G. accommodation. However, as he now understood that the Authority was not fulfilling its statutory requirements regarding safety in the paint shop, he was satisfied that consideration was in order.

Mr. Martin said that the present proposals represented the minimum needs of the paint shop and that the estimate of £7,000 for the 1950 sq. ft. extension was a contrc estimate. In reply to a question from Mr. Crabb, he said that there were no suitable existing buildings near the Building Section.

DJC

The Committee recommended that Stage II approval should be given to the scheme at a cost not exceeding £7,000 (Drawing No. S/54/3A) and on behalf of the Director, the Chairman authorised an I.T.P. to be issued.

5. Proposed Re-siting of Care and Custody Store for Building Section (Re-submission of BC(62)38) - BC(63)9

Mr. Martin presented a paper seeking approval for the removal of the present store, a Robin Hangar, from the area south-west of Building 459, which is scheduled for clearance, to a site adjoining Building 431.1, at an estimated cost of £1,875. He stated that if the building was not moved, repairs would be necessary.

Mr. Ferguson suggested that, in the near future, it would be possible to use part of building 488 as a Care and Custody store for Building Section following its vacati- by the Culham Laboratory.

TDM

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the paper should be re-submitted in six months time.

6. Terrapins for Recreational Association, and the Police Club - BC(63)10

Mr. Ferguson presented a paper requesting siting approval for a proposal to provide various Terrapin huts for the A.E.R.E. Recreational Association and the Police Club.

A. A.E.R.E. Recreational Association

Mr. Ferguson referred to a statement by Sir Donald Perrot in which he (Sir Donald) had said that, where the Authority had spare buildings, they should endeavour to use them to meet the needs of Recreational Associations. Terrapin huts were available for which there was no foreseeable requirement by A.E.R.E. and the A.E.R.E. Recreational Association were badly in need of additional accommodation of this type for use as changing rooms etc.

For the Recreational Association, Brigadier Bell said that there was a grave lack of changing facilities conveniently situated to some of the playing fields which led to embarrassment when the Association entertained visiting teams. A shortage of funds made it difficult for the Association to remedy this.

The Chairman stated that the huts would be moved by the Authority and placed on existing foundations free of charge but that any other costs including connection of services would be borne by the Association.

In discussing the proposals generally, the Committee agreed the terrapins should, as far as possible, be made to look like sports pavilions by the addition of say a covered veranda. The Committee then considered the proposals in detail:

(i) Five Units MK.XXIV Terrapins on central playing field near building 328

GB
TDM The present proposal was considered unsatisfactory in view of the intention to clear the whole of the 328 area of Terrapins in due course. The Committee suggested an alternative site adjoining the Fire Station, building 346, and Brig. Bell agreed to consider this after Mr. Martin had ascertained what additional expense, if any, would be involved in using this site.

(ii) One Unit MK.XXIV Terrapin on north playing field, adjacent to the present pavilion

GB It was agreed that, if possible, this Terrapin should be sited in the same area adjoining building 346 as the five terrapins referred to in (i) above.

(iii) One Unit MK.XXIV Terrapin on South Sports field in the vicinity of Messrs. Chivers old vehicle park

GB
NNF
TDM It was agreed that the Recreational Association should reconsider the siting of this Terrapin (Plan No. S/G/230) as the present proposal would place it in a prominent position in an area which was shortly to be cleared of huts and unsightly buildings.

(iv) A purpose-built timber pavilion on the tennis court north of the Social Club

On behalf of the Director, and on the Committee's recommendation, the Chairman gave siting approval to this proposal. (Plan S/G/239)

B. Police Club

Mr. Ferguson said that the present premises were in a poor condition and at the end of their useful life. It was proposed to replace them with eleven units of MK.XXIV Terrapins which would be placed on the existing foundations by the Authority. Any new foundation work and connection of services would be paid for by the Police Club. The existing Nissen huts alongside this building would be retained, pro tempore, for the use of the Scouts, and the Sailing Club.

On behalf of the Director, and on the Committee's recommendation, the Chairman gave siting approval to this proposal. (Drawing S/184/6).

7. Any Other Business

(a) The Chairman reported on the extension to Building 220 and the Analytical Chemistry Building.

The Engineering Group's proposal for a single storey annexe to building 220, separate from the main building has been examined by Chemistry Division who found it did not meet their requirements. The Director was informing Mr. Viney of this decision.

At a meeting with the Director, it had been decided that the proposals for the Analytical Chemistry Building should be reconsidered. It was now possible that certain existing buildings used for analytical chemistry services would be retained and the proposed new building would, therefore, be smaller.

(b) It was agreed that the Southern Works Organisation, New Works in Hand report prepared by Mr. T. D. Martin and dated 5th March, 1963, should be considered by Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Dixon, and be presented at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in the Conference Room of the Cockcroft Hall on Wednesday 10th April, 1963, at 11.00 a.m.

RFJ
GWD

Alan Cook
Secretary

Finance Branch,
Building 329.
Ext. 2783.

21st March, 1963.