

Mr. P. Bowles.
R-1.

RLBC/M. 33c

0609

RUTHERFORD LABORATORY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Minutes of the meeting held in Mr. Bowles' Office on Tuesday, 10th October, 1961.

Present: Mr. P. Bowles. - Chairman.
Mr. G. W. Dixon.
Mr. A. Miller.
Mr. M. Snowden.
Dr. J. A. V. Willis.
Mr. A. Shackelford. - Secretary.

In attendance: Mr. K. H. Choate.
Mr. C. G. Crowfoot.
Mr. G. H. Flock.
Mr. A. H. Fryer.
Mr. J. A. Goode.
Mr. H. Hadley.
Mr. G. M. Harbert.
Mr. D. A. Harrison.
Dr. J. Howlett.
Mr. J. B. Marsh.
Mr. J. A. Nott.
Mr. H. F. Rudkin.
Mr. G. E. Simmonds.
Mr. E. T. Smith.
Mr. N. J. Smyth.

ITION.

1. Minutes of the last meeting. RLBC/M. 33.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12th September, were accepted subject to the following corrections:-

Page 2. Para. 6. line 5. Delete: "unsatisfactory" - and in its place insert - "not/satisfactory as the Institute requires."

Page 2. Para. 7. line 5. Amend "sufficient" to read "insufficient."

2. Accommodation for Industrial Chemistry Staff. - RLBC/P66.

Mr. Smith tabled this paper and explained the nature of the requirement. The present number of staff involved is three, rising to four in the immediate future and will increase further as the need for the sections services matures.

Dr. Willis, speaking as sponsor for R.25 said that he was totally opposed to any accommodation in R.25 being used for any purpose other than as offices, since that had been the sole basis of the case for provision of this building. Mr. Choate also pointed out that no Trade Waste drain existed in the area proposed and provision of this service would involve extra work and cost.

Choate.
Simmonds.
Willis.

Mr. Choate, Mr. Simmonds and Dr. Willis were asked to consider alternative sitings and make proposals at the next meeting.

3. Site Power Distribution. RLBC/P65.

Mr. Hadley tabled this paper which describes the future growth of demands for electrical power on the site and puts forward suggested schemes for meeting these demands. (A misprint in the paper should be corrected as follows:- Para. 4. line 2. Amend "1800 M.V.A. to read "2800 K.V.A.").

The Chairman agreed that power must be available when required, but the growth of the distribution scheme must be planned logically so that the final arrangement is good.

Mr. Harbert said that the new C.E.G.B. sub-station would not be ready for load before the end of 1963. It was agreed, therefore, that some temporary measures must be taken to meet earlier demands.

Mr. Harbert also expressed his suspicion that the Diversity factor employed in past assessments was, in fact, higher than was proving the case. Mr. Hadley agreed that monitoring existing demands was tending to support that suspicion.

Mr. Hadley.
Mr. Harbert.
Mr. Simmonds.

The Chairman asked Mr. Hadley, Mr. Harbert and Mr. Simmonds to co-ordinate this issue and prepare a paper for a future meeting...

4. P.L.A. Extension.

Mr. Choate.
Dr. Stafford.

The Chairman recalled the rise in costs shown in tenders received during recent months, which Mr. Flook had quoted at the last meeting. Mr. Harbert has contrived to keep within his M & E estimate, by virtue of omitting 25% of the fume cupboards and hopes to achieve some further saving on the ventilation plenum plant. Mr. Choate, however, foresees a further exceeding but awaits G.S. figures before this can be evaluated. He is pressing these forward and hopes to have them available within two weeks, and will then confer urgently with Dr. Stafford to effect all practicable saving and keep within the estimate:

Mr. Miller asked that he should be kept informed on C.V.C. but Mr. Choate agreed that it would be misleading to quote for any particular building and all C.V.C. will increase as from October 1961.

5. Atlas Computer.

The Chairman asked whether we have a financial grant for this project, or have we to prepare an estimate for submission to Treasury. Dr. Willis explained that Treasury has made a grant for the whole project, which is not specifically broken down between building and equipment, but the building estimate included was for £150,000.

Dr. Howlett explained that this figure for building work had been quoted when the scheme was originally put forward. The scheme had subsequently been increased and present requirements, in terms of floor areas, were 13,000 for the Atlas equipment and 11,000 for the computer.

Mr. Choate said that the estimate for his scheme was £220,000, but subsequent increase in the size of plant room would probably increase this to £250,000.

Dr. Howlett said that he would be prepared to seek additional funds for building work. Dr. Willis, however, said that Treasury had indicated that the grant was a firm figure and that they would expect any overspending to be offset by savings elsewhere.

Mr. Choate.

The Chairman said that the Computer Committee must be warned that building costs would be in the order of £250,000. Mr. Choate suspected that there was a tendency by the manufacturer to get the building embellished into a 'show place' for his equipment; this must be resisted, the building must be good, but not elaborate.

Mr. Choate.

A meeting is being arranged to discuss this project with Ferranti on Tuesday morning 17th October, just before the Computer Committee meets in the afternoon of the same day, and the Chairman asked that a rough estimate of cost, quoting limits of accuracy, together with plans and part elevations of the building should be prepared in time for presentation at those meetings. Every endeavour must be made to keep this project on a sound financial basis.

6. Layout of Grounds.

Mr. Nott reported that this work is now going ahead well. The fence will be completed by 2.10.61. Gates are to be fixed as soon as is practicable, so that the site can be enclosed. Dr. Willis suggested that an additional gate should be constructed at the junction of Road 1 and Dido Road, to serve as a night gate, this would be more accessible to the Watchkeeper and the more remote gate at the N.E. Corner of the site could then be kept locked at night. After some deliberation it was agreed that a gate should be fitted into the removable section of the fence at the point required.

Mr. Choate.

Dr. Willis produced copies of a further revision of the site layout, generally similar to the previous issue of this plan, but indicating three gates at the N.W. corner of the site. The Grounds Committee, however, prefers the previous arrangement of two gates; after some discussion around this feature, Mr. Choate agreed to produce a fully developed scheme for this area, for consideration at the next meeting.

An estimate of £210 for cutting 110 holes in the runway concrete for planting trees was agreed, but the Chairman asked for assurance that the trees would be arranged in such a way as to permit parking of cars, and that the trees will be of a type which would not drop resinous sap on to the cars. These trees must be set in the concrete area, due to the close proximity of the main drain, on the west verge of the runway.

Area 'C' in the S.W. corner of the site is now being cleared by the groundsmen, most of the remaining work in this area is around the main drain excavation. Clearance of Area 'B' will follow and subsequently the area between R.1 and Road 4, south of the footpath.

Mr. Nott.

Mr. Nott was asked to arrange for removal of all Contractors rubbish from the area between the north car park and the runway. The area between the plant store and Dido Road is also to be cleared.

7. Policy on Future Contracts.

Mr. Flock reported that tenders recently received for building work showed a cost increase of about 1% over tenders for similar work received six months ago, and experience with M & E tenders showed about the same increase. He recommended that contractors should be approached to make sure that they really wanted to do the work before they are invited to tender, and, that as many suitable firms as practicable should be invited. It had proved difficult to anticipate how tenders would compare, he quoted one case in which the lowest tender was 15% up on the estimate and the second lowest 100% up.

It appears to be most profitable to ensure that designs make the best possible use of the labour force available and keep well ahead of construction.

In view of this situation, Mr. Choate suggested that the Parasitic Area Extension and the Experimental Area Extension should be fed into Chivers Phase III Contract at an early date, so that we may gain from the provisions of the escalator clause, whilst Chivers can plan ahead on labour.

Mr. Flock said that it would probably prove profitable to feed the rest of the programme into Chivers Contract.

The Chairman intervened by asking if this implied that competitive tendering now, would probably result in higher costs. Both Mr. Choate and Mr. Flock agreed that this was so and they pointed out that the quality of Chivers work compared very favourably with that of other Contractors.

It was decided that rates are to be agreed with Chivers, on the escalator clause, in agreement with the G.P.C.

Mr. Louth pointed out that in any case, tendering action would lose too much valuable time.

8. Stores Unloading Bay - RLBC/P.68.

This paper, prepared by Mr. Pickles, together with a sketch plan of the scheme, were considered by the Committee, but the feeling persists that R.1. Link Basement should remain as a Divisional Stores. It was suggested that heavy items should be delivered to the new Plant Store and off-loaded by the 'Iron Fairy'.

Dr. Willis stated his belief that we would, eventually, have to take over receipt of all of our own stores, and suitable facilities would then have to be provided and may be off the site.

A decision on future stores policy must be reached, before building clearance can be given to this proposal..

9. Huts for Maintenance Contractors.

Mr. Harrison tabled a new plan showing proposals for siting and facilities for this purpose, at the junction of Road 3 with Dido Road. The proposal included provision of an access road and concrete slabs for the huts at an estimated cost of £1,000.

Mr. Harrison. The location was agreed, but clearance with the exexisting workshop is to be increased to comply with fire regulations and the west slab is to be omitted. Mr. Harrison will revise the layout and submit a new estimate.

10. Restaurant.

Mr. Harbert reported that tenders received were £10,000 up on his estimate. External services had proved much more involved than was foreseen and this aspect accounts for £3,000 of the increase. Electrical work is £500 up and the balance is due to mechanical services and equipment. An increase in building costs is also foreseen.

Mr. Harbert. Mr. Harbert was asked to let Mr. Harrison have a copy of the equipment layout.

The Chairman ruled that the equipment schedule must be checked and agreed with the Canteen Committee, before the contract is accepted.

11. R.2 Extension.

Access to the site is to be agreed with the Building Contractor. It was suggested that the existing main entrance to R.2 should be closed and all cars removed from the forecourt, and that Contractors' approach should be via Road 4, thence south along Road 1.

12. Minors Works Orders.

Mr. Rudkin presented a statement of Minor Works orders issued up to 4.10.61.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held in Mr. Bowles' office, Building R.1., at 9.30 a.m. on MONDAY, 6th November, 1961.

A. SHACKLEFORD.

Building R.1. (Link).
N.I.R.N.S.