

NI(GP)(59) Second Meeting

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in the Board Room, Treasury Buildings, Whitehall at 2.45 p.m. on Monday 15 June 1959

PRESENT:

Lord Bridges in the chair
Professor J. Diamond
Professor R. E. Feierls
Sir Donald Perrott
Professor D. H. Wilkinson
Mr. P. Bowles
Dr. T. G. Pickavance
Professor H. S. W. Massey (for item 7)
Dr. J. A. V. Willis Secretary.

An apology for absence was received from Sir James Mountford.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Committee approved the minutes of their first meeting of 1959, subject to correction of the numbering of the last two minutes.

The Chairman briefly reported the following action:

- Minute 5 Treasury approval had been given for the Phase II buildings
- Minute 6 He had approved the proposal for modifications to Cosensers House
- Minute 8 The proposals on patents had been sent to the UGC and the DSIR. The latter had not yet agreed.
- Minute 10 So far appointments had been offered to four applicants for fixed term research posts, and three had accepted.

2. MATTERS DEALT WITH BY CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman said that after referring to the members by correspondence in paper NI(GP)(59)11, he had approved on their behalf the increased expenditure on the FLA Klystron room, now totalling £26,600.

3. CAPITAL ESTIMATE 1959/60

The Chairman said that paper NI(GP)(59) 12 was a copy of the vote letter supplement for the current year, and was mainly for reference. Comment was made on the large single item of £2M for beam extraction handling and detecting plant, and Dr. Pickavance said that it was intended to split the item up in next year's estimate.

4. ESTIMATES 1960/61

It was agreed that estimates for 1960/61 should be considered by the Committee at their next meeting, on July 29th. The Secretary was instructed to write again to Universities reminding them to send in information about Institute expenditure which they would be requesting.

Sir Donald Perrott said that a Forecast of expenditure over the next five years was also required for the Treasury.

5. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT ON THE 7 GeV PROJECT

Dr. Pickavance introduced paper NI(GP)(59) 13, prepared the usual form except that a new appendix V shows the additions which are under consideration, but not yet approved.

The increase in the total estimate this time is £20,000 (Appendix I) The Committee's approval is sought in paper NI(GP)(59) 17 later in the agenda for three contracts, and approval for two more contracts, for drift tube assemblies and for the main magnet pole pieces, will be sought shortly, probably by correspondence (Appendix IV).

ACTION I The Committee approved the increased estimate now totalling £7.79 M.

6. QUARTERLY GENERAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Secretary introduced paper NI(GP)(59) 14, the layout of which has been considerably revised and simplified as compared with the first statement NI(GP)(59) 3. The first schedule shows the expenditure in each quarter of 1958/59. The Chairman drew attention to the rise in the rate of expenditure during the year. The Secretary said that there would be a sudden increase in the first quarter of 1959/60, owing to the taking over of the proton linear accelerator, which was an A.E.A. project up to the end of 1958/59.

The second schedule gives the latest forecast of expenditure in the current year, as compared with the estimates and with the forecast made at the last meeting. The Chairman drew attention to the increased forecast cost of services by the AERE.

ACTION II The Committee approved the revised forecast.

The third schedule shows the commitments and expenditure on projects not covered by the 7 GeV project return. These are very small as yet.

7. DESIGN STUDY AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON
FOR THE PROPOSED PROPANE BUBBLE CHAMBER

Professor Massey introduced paper NI(GP)(59) 20. After discussion, it was agreed that the design study should go on irrespective of the decision on the main project. Since the Institute were to deal with the latter, it would be best for the Institute to take over the design study. If the main project were approved, the design study contract could be absorbed into it.

ACTION III The Committee agreed to support the design study as requested in paper NI(GP)(59) 20. The Secretary was instructed to arrange with the DSIR a date not later than Sept 30th for taking over the support of this work from the DSIR.

8. FAMILY ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITING SCIENTISTS

Dr. Pickavance introduced paper NI(GP)(59) 15, pointing out that accommodation for summer visitors bringing their families was the most difficult problem, being seasonal. It was however very important for the scientific success of the laboratory to attract these summer visitors. The proposal to build simple flats at Coseners House attempted to meet this difficulty as they would be usable at other times as single accommodation.

In discussion, the importance of adequate car parking space was stressed. Also, the possibility of letting flats during the academic year to visiting professors at Oxford was suggested. Staff newly appointed to the Rutherford Laboratory might stay there for a time too. It was suggested that eight flats suggested at Coseners house were too few, but Dr. Pickavance said that there was probably not room for more. Another site would have to be found in due course.

Summing up after the discussion, the Chairman said that while he

thought it difficult to be sure that the proposed flats would not be left empty at times, he thought it important to provide them and that in one or more of the ways suggested the periods when they were empty would be minimised. The Committee agreed.

ACTION IV The Committee approved in principle the proposed dual-purpose extension to Coseners House, and instructed the Secretary to have a draft scheme prepared.

9. PROPOSED BUILDING CONTRACTS

Dr. Pickavance asked approval for contracts with Messrs. Chivers and Messrs. Taylor Woodrow for the first of the Phase II buildings, as detailed in paper NI(GP)(59) 16. In reply to a question about the function of the consultants, whose fees are also mentioned in the paper, he explained that they carry out the detailed design of the heavy flooring and of the engineering services, heating, lighting etc. in the building.

The Chairman said that since the first Arcon building had proved so successful the present proposal seemed very reasonable.

ACTION V The Committee approved the placing of contracts by single tender action at amounts not exceeding the following estimates by more than 10%.

- (a) With Taylor Woodrow for 10,000 sq. ft
Arcon building £24,000
- (b) With W. E. Chivers (as extension of
existing contract) for construction
of Arcon building, heavy concrete
floors etc. £20,000

10. PROPOSED PLANT CONTRACTS (NIMROD PROJECT)

The Committee considered the three requests for contract approvals covered by paper NI(GP)(59) 17. Mr. Bowles explained the position on each. A slight error in the recommendation concerning transport cradles for magnet coil parts was pointed out. The Chairman said that this error should be corrected in recording the approval in the minutes. Otherwise all appeared to be straightforward cases.

ACTION VI The Committee approved the placing of a contract with Messrs. F. H. Wheeler Ltd. for electrical installation work, and approved the expenditure of £100,000 on electrical installation work up to mid 1961.

ACTION VII The Committee approved the placing of a contract with Messrs. Metropolitan-Vickers for the work covered by item 4 (a) of paper PS PC/P44 at a fixed cost of £17,455.

The Committee authorised the issue of instructions to Messrs. Metropolitan-Vickers to proceed with 4(b) 4(c) 4(d) 4(e) and 4(f) of paper PS PC/P44 at a cost to be negotiated, but not exceeding £37,025.

ACTION VIII The Committee approved the placing of a contract for the magnet sector build-up plates (as proposed in paper PS PC/P43) with Messrs. J. Sankey at a cost not exceeding £37,500.

11. SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

Dr. Pickavance introduced paper NI(GP)(59) 19 which described a new scheme for the drainage of surface water from main buildings, at a cost of £55,000 compared with the original estimate of £30,000. He explained

that trial soakaways had been dug early in the construction period, and the rate of drainage from them after a particularly heavy storm had led to a general review of the problem with the consulting engineers, the meteorological office and the AEA Industrial Group. In order to avoid risk of flooding the service trenches in the magnet hall and experimental area, a more elaborate scheme was needed than had been expected. Mr. Bowles said that twelve schemes had been worked out and the one detailed in the present paper had been selected as the cheapest which would give the necessary protection.

In discussion, it was asked whether the need could not have been foreseen from the start. Mr. Bowles replied that the rate of drainage from soakaways had proved less than expected, and the amount of water to be provided against was more than the original estimate.

After further discussion the Committee agreed to the proposal.

ACTION IX The Committee approved the issue of instructions to Messrs. Chivers to proceed with the work as described in paper NI(GP)(59) 19 as an extension to their existing contract, and agreed to an increase in the civil engineering estimate by £25,000 to cover the cost of this scheme at £55,000 in place of £30,000 previously stated.

12. SUPERANNUATION SCHEME The Chairman said that in the superannuation scheme for Institute employees, now being drawn up, it was proposed to rely on the services of the Government Actuary. This was agreed.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday July 29th at 2.45 p.m.

J. A. V. Willis
Secretary

Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
Harwell, Berks.

23rd June, 1959.

Circulation:- Lord Bridges
Sir Donald Perrott
Professor R. E. Peierls
Professor D. H. Wilkinson
Sir James Mountford
Professor N. F. Mott
Dr. R. Aitken
Professor H. S. W. Massey
Professor J. Diamond
Sir George Thomson
Mr. John Gridley
Professor W. V. D. Hodge
Sir Harry Melville
Professor P. M. S. Blackett
Sir John Cockcroft
Dr. B. F. J. Schonland
Dr. T. G. Pickavance
Mr. P. Bowles
Mr. D. W. Fry
Mr. V. H. E. Cole
Mr. F. A. Tatford

Mr. R. E. Reynolds
Mr. A. E. Drake
Mr. L. B. Mullett
Mr. G. W. Dixon
Mr. G. N. Venn
Mr. T. B. LeCren
Mr. Bancroft
Dr. J. A. V. Willis