
Council Courier

02.10.2019

This is an informal account of the discussions and decisions most recently taken at Council. Action notes and official minutes will be produced in due course.

Obituary

Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin. A minute's silence was held for recently deceased members including Hugh Feilden and Allan Stuckey.

Declarations of interest

Debbie Flevotomou: had paid a penalty order of £1,000 after investigation by the Architects' Registration Board.

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed as a correct record subject to a minor amendment.

Matters arising from the minutes

Live streaming of The Architects Underground (TAU): live streaming every event would be prohibitively costly, and problematic given the nature of the event. However, the digital team would look at streaming parts of TAU output in collaboration with the north east and Northern Ireland.

Procurement: matters raised at the June Council meeting would shortly be discussed by the Practice & Profession Committee and a report made to Council in December.

Royal Gold Medal 2020

Awarded to Grafton Architects. Official ceremony to take place in February 2020.

President's report

President Alan Jones drew attention to his first article published as President in the RIBA Journal. After discussion

Council endorsed the principle of raising standards in the profession and actively promoting its superior expertise and the associated advantages for clients and consumers.

Appointments

The following were appointed:

- VP Student/Associate – Maryam Al-Irhayim and Lewis North (sharing role)
- Honorary Secretary (to 31 August 2020) – Kerr Robertson
- Honorary Treasurer (to 31 August 2020) – John Assael
- Professional Conduct Liaison – Mark Benzie

The following were appointed for an interim period, pending implementation of any constitutional changes that might ensue after the SGM later that day:

- Acting chair of Library Committee – Kerr Robertson
- VP Practice & Profession – Wendy Charlton
- VP International – Jo Bacon

The following members of the RIBA Board were reappointed for an interim period: Rob Dickins, Ruth McIntosh, Helen Taylor, Pierre Wassenaar.

The membership of main committees for an interim period was also agreed.

Next year the full attendance records of main committee members would be made available to Council. A request was made to facilitate more virtual

attendance of committee meetings by members.

RIBA Board report

The minutes of the Board meeting of 18 June 2019 were noted.

Climate Challenge Presentation

The RIBA had declared an environment and climate emergency at its meeting in June, and pledged support for the UK government's commitment to put into legislation the UKCCC recommendation for a UK 2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions target.

Gary Clark, Associate Director of WilkinsonEyre and Head of RIBA's Sustainable Futures Group, gave a presentation on plans to support chartered member practices (in the UK and internationally) to achieve targets by 2030. Guidance would be issued by the RIBA the following day to help architects meet net zero (or better) whole life carbon for new and retrofitted buildings by 2030. The Climate Challenge would set a series of targets for practices to adopt to reduce operational energy, embodied carbon and potable water.

Gary Clarke was thanked for his presentation.

International strategy

A high level strategy to grow the international membership through a series of measures, including key products and services, and focussed initially on the four international regions, was approved.

Chief Executive's Report

The RIBA had applied to the Brexit readiness fund. Architects had been added to the shortage occupation list.

Council noted the report, and also a separate report on the performance of

Williams Topco Ltd. A separate session offering more detail on the business was offered to Council members.

Professional Standards report

Professional Conduct Panel members had recently undergone training in the new RIBA code of professional conduct. Council noted the report and the updated figures of live cases in the system.

RIBA Finance

Council noted the 6+6 forecast for 2019, together with the June management accounts.

Governance

Council approved the new collateral governance documents including the Council code of conduct, regional handbook, board handbook, and terms of reference for standing committees. It also approved a protocol for call on RIBA resource.

Membership Reinstatements and resignations

Council noted the election of

- 34 affiliate members
- 39 associate members
- 374 chartered members
- 193 student members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

AGM and SGM

AGM and SGM meetings were held during the day.

At the AGM the RIBA annual accounts for 2018 were approved and the auditors Sayer Vincent were re-appointed.

At the SGM a number of key resolutions were voted through to make significant changes to the constitution and governance structure of the RIBA.

Subject to Privy Council ratification, these changes will become effective early in 2020. They are fully reported at:

www.architecture.com

Question

A question from Elsie Owusu was followed up with a supplementary question, which would be responded to in writing during the run-up to the next Council meeting.

Reports noted for information:

- Equality and Diversity update
- Visiting Board report

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