
Council Courier

28 September 2023

This is an informal account of the discussions and decisions taken at Council.

Obituary

Members were remembered with a minute's silence. Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin.

Minutes of previous meeting, 4 August 2023

Agreed as a correct record.

President's report

The President's report was noted, as was the extensive media coverage he had received in the run-up to taking office (e.g. Channel 4 News interview). His immediate engagements would include attending the Conservative Party conference in Manchester and the Labour Party conference in Liverpool.

He outlined an innovation he would like to introduce to future Council meetings, an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 'moment'. This would be a micro-learning opportunity for Council members to share examples of good practice. Council members would be encouraged to volunteer to speak briefly at future Council meetings on EDI initiatives in the workplace.

Biennial Priorities 2024-25

Council endorsed the vision and five priority themes of the President's Biennial Priorities:

Outward-facing:

1. Employment and Wellbeing
2. Architecture without boundaries
3. Awareness and Engagement

Inward-facing:

4. Securing future RIBA
5. RIBA Powerhouse

Chair of Board Report

For the benefit of new members, Jack Pringle introduced himself as Chair of the Board (tenure until end of August 2026). Main points of his report:

- The Board met much more frequently than Council and had a number of sub-groups. A regular board update to Council was issued.
- The new President Muyiwa Oki had recently joined the Board as a trustee.
- The new constitution introduced in March 2020 had not been without its glitches and these were being addressed over time.
- The Board had recently reviewed the risk register, for which day to day responsibility lay with the Audit and Risk Committee.
- The public affairs team had been reconfigured and was very active with sustainability, housing, building safety and EDI high on the agenda.
- There had been contact with the government on deregulation and planning, and with the ARB prior to its press release on education.

CEO's report

This was noted, including the RIBA's recent activity on RAAC.

House of Architecture Project

The Council was updated on the progress of the project.

Election of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer

Council voted to elect Femi Oresanya as the new Honorary Treasurer and Roger Shrimplin as the new Honorary Secretary. Both would take up ex-officio seats on the RIBA Board.

VP Membership update

Highlights:

- RIBA hosted the annual UK member forum in July 2023 – attended by 98 UK members with an average 4.5/5 rating.
- Launch of new digital mentoring platform in early 2024 to improve the experience of students and early career architects.
- Next N&RCC meeting on 9 November 2023 to allow new members to bed in, including all the new international Council members.
- Work on international member forum to provide an equivalent offer to international members.
- LIF funding already being planned – reminder to local groups of the need to formulate business cases in time for the next round of funding.

Conservation register fees

By 18 votes to 4, Council voted to approve the new levels for application, subscription and re-accreditation fees for the RIBA Conservation Register.

Principal Designer fees

RIBA Council was invited to approve the levels for application (assessment) and subscription (registration) fees for RIBA Principal Designer certification. It

approved the application fees but requested a revised proposal be brought on registration.

Expert Advisory Groups

Council agreed:

- i) the continuation of the Fire Safety, Climate Emergency and Finding and Accessing Architecture EAGs in the 2023/24 session.
- ii) the continuation of the Planning EAG for the 23-24 session, with its overall remit extended to encompass Housing.
- iii) the establishment of a Data, Computational Design and AI EAG for the 2023/24 session.
- iv) to delegate the appointment of the vacant Council lead roles, and development of the detailed remit (tasks) of each of the EAGs for the coming session to the RIBA President, in consultation with the relevant Council leads and liaison staff members.

Expert Advisory Group on Delivery

Joan McCoy spoke briefly summarising the work of the group and future recommendations it would like to make for consideration by the Board.

Council agreed in principle that the recommendations be referred to the Board for consideration. Joan McCoy was thanked for her report.

Discussion: Artificial Intelligence, data and digital innovation

Director of Practice Alex Tait introduced the speakers: Professor Neil Leach, Hassan Ragab and Martha Tzigkari. All made presentations to Council on aspects of AI and digital innovation. There was then a brief discussion, after which Adrian Malleon, Head of Economic Research and Analysis,

outlined next steps for the RIBA, including a member survey on AI and related ethical concerns, due for circulation the following week.

The President thanked the speakers and contributors.

**Volunteer code protocol
implementation plan**

Council agreed to note the proposed implementation plan.

AGM

After lunch the annual AGM was held and it was resolved

1. To adopt the 2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements.
2. To approve the reappointment of the RIBA auditors, Sayer Vincent, for the financial year 2023.

Ends