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## Council Courier

22 June 2023

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

### Obituary

Members were remembered with a minute's silence. Particular mention was made of Sir Michael Hopkins.

### Minutes of previous meeting, 27 April 2023

Agreed as a correct record.

### President's report

The President thanked those Council members due to stand down on 31 August, plus those who hoped to be elected for a second term:

1. Alice Asafu-Adjaye (Middle East & Africa)
2. Tim Clark (Europe excl UK)
3. Catherine Davis (The Americas)
4. Ken Wai (Asia and Australasia)
5. Gavin Traylor (RSAW President)
6. Yuli Cadney-Toh (Wessex)
7. Simone de Gale (Hon Treasurer)
8. Graham Devine (Hon Secretary)
9. Sarah Akigbogun (London)
10. David Adjei (London)
11. Danko Stefan (South East)
12. Philip Twiss (West Midlands)
13. Anna Webster (London)
14. Jack Pringle (London)
15. Jennifer Dixon (Council)
16. Tom Foggin (VP Membership)
17. Femi Oresanya (London)
18. Robin Webster (Scotland South)

### House of Architecture - update

Chair of the Board Jack Pringle outlined the ambitious plans for a physical and digital 'House of Architecture' and promised regular updates to Council from the Property Committee.

The project includes necessary improvement work at 66 Portland Place and a programme to ensure it is more dynamic, accessible and sustainable. Improvements include a process of selective enhancement. A couple of slides were shown of the proposed external changes, which would help to open up the building to the street.

As Council was aware, a design team led by Benedetti Architects had been appointed to support the project and the Board had commissioned the next design stage of the plans.

In summary:

- Programme for 5 years
- Options for optimum storage facility to be developed
- IT programme to update the RIBA's systems and to support the digital house of architecture
- Temporary accommodation required for staff and activity during the building work
- Plan to partner with other organisations
- Out of London storage
- Fundraising programme with necessary support provided to ensure its success

This was followed by a Q&A session, covering the property portfolio, challenges of listed building status, temporary accommodation and what might be considered (including taking meetings out of 66PP and London during the works), risk of escalating cost

of work and capping the cost of it, and adherence to net zero.

Jack Pringle thanked Council members for their input.

### **President Elect update**

Muyiwa Oki reminded members of the five areas of his biennial priorities previously shared with Council. Costed initiatives would be mapped against the five themes and an update would be brought to Council after the summer.

He then took the opportunity to pay tribute to the outgoing President Simon Allford and outlined some of the many achievements during his two-year term. The President was thanked warmly by the Council.

### **Board report and annual report**

- The institute was on track to reach a balanced budget although it was a significant challenge.
- Public affairs campaigns were ramping up.
- An external report had been received on diversity and inclusion at the RIBA and shared with stakeholders, including the Council.
- The draft annual report for 2022 was included in the papers and questions were welcome. Some questions had been received in advance of the meeting from Mark Benzie and responses were already provided in the meeting papers. There were no questions from the floor.

### **External governance review**

The President introduced Catherine Little and James Tickell of Campbell Tickell, who gave a brief outline of their report to the Council which was

responding to the RIBA's commitment to review the efficacy of its governance procedures every three years.

A workshop for the Council members was scheduled for 13 July and this would provide an opportunity for Council to discuss the recommendations more fully.

Catherine Little and James Tickell noted the appetite for change and for improvements from those who had responded to their consultation. It was generally agreed that there was too much governance at the RIBA which was dominating ways of working, and this needed to be reduced. The Honorary Secretary Graham Devine thanked Campbell Tickell for their report and the Council members for their engagement and urged Council to be bold in the next phase. A further report would be made to Council after 13 July.

### **Update from the Nominations Committee**

The Honorary Secretary explained that the online hustings scheduled for 11 July were an opportunity for those serving on Council in the next session to hear from the candidates standing for the roles of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The hustings were being held in advance of the first Council meeting in September, when the appointments would be voted on, to save time on the day. Newly-elected members of Council would also be invited to the hustings.

Other appointments: The Nominations Committee made recommendations on two appointments to the Board for Council to consider and vote on. As these concerned the President Simon Allford and the current Chair of the Board Jack Pringle, both left the meeting temporarily.

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- Chair of the Board – proposed extension of current term of Jack Pringle to 31 August 2026.
  - Trustee on the Board – proposed appointment from 1 September 2023-31 August 2024 of Simon Allford.

After discussion, Council voted to agree both appointments.

The President and Chair of the Board then rejoined the meeting and the President resumed the Chair.

### **Volunteer code of conduct and protocol**

The Council voted to approve the Volunteer Code of Conduct and the Volunteer Code Protocol.

### **Expert advisory groups**

Owing to pressures of time, discussion of the reports from expert advisory groups were deferred.

### **Reports/Minutes for noting:**

- Chief Executive report
- Board and draft annual report
- Finance update
- Membership Experience UK 2023 update
- Nations & Regions Council Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee
- Standards Committee
- Storage and growth of RIBA Collections
- Ethical principles
- Board courier 22.3.23
- Fire Safety EAG report
- Finding and Accessing Architecture EAG report

*Ends*