
Council Courier

8 December 2022

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

Members were remembered. Particular mention was made of Andrew Chadwick. Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin.

Declarations of interest

Roger Shrimplin: was standing for reappointment to the Standards Committee.

Jo Bacon: was being proposed for reappointment to the Board later on the agenda.

Both would absent themselves from the discussion/voting.

Minutes of previous meeting, 10 October 2022

Agreed as a correct record subject to one amendment.

President's report

Highlights of presidential activity for the last three months included:

- House of Architecture, Steering Committee Meeting + Project Board – various meetings
- Stirling Prize Ceremony and Party
- Stirling Prize Winner Building Stories Talk
- Welcome speech to AIA-UK lecture
- Marco Goldschmied Memorial
- NY-LON 'Is coming home' Welcome Speech
- RIBA Board Meeting
- President's Medals award ceremony

- Judging HS2 Design, Environment and Engineering awards – Award event on 7th Dec

Climate emergency task and finish group – update on COP27

Duncan Baker-Brown (one of the Council leads for the Climate Emergency task and finish group) reported on recent attendance at the COP27 conference in Egypt. This time the RIBA had had access to the 'blue zone' at the heart of the conference.

Council members were encouraged to join the task and finish group. More broadly, informal ways should be found for members to share information about their practice's work on zero carbon, including greater use of the Member Hub.

RIBA Collections presentation

Oliver Urquhart-Irvine, Executive Director Architecture Programmes and Collections, gave a presentation on the future direction for the RIBA's collections, touching on their future location, digitisation and accessibility. Council members were encouraged to contact Oliver with their feedback.

Membership engagement

Tom Fogglin spoke to the paper which had been deferred from the last meeting setting out strategic recommendations from the Nations & Regions Committee following discussions at branch and

regional level. He welcomed any feedback from Council before this would be shared with the Board as part of Council's strategic guidance.

The deadline for applications for LIF funding was 10 February 2023. The fund was being increased this year and members were encouraged to publicise the opportunity and the application deadline in their regions.

Board report

The Board was now sharing a range of information on its activity both with Council and the wider membership.

With all the executive directors now in place and the arrival of the new Chief Executive imminent, a board away day was planned for the first quarter of 2023.

Board committees: the majority of these were now fully formed and had met.

Appointments to RIBA Board:

By 21 votes to 0, Council voted:

- a. To re-appoint Murray Orr as a RIBA Trustee (non-RIBA member expert) for a second term of three years to 7th April 2026;
- b. To re-appoint Mary-Anne Stevens as RIBA Trustee (non-RIBA member expert) for a second term of three years to 7th April 2026;
- c. To re-appoint Marjorie Strachan as a RIBA Trustee (non-RIBA member expert) for a second term of three years to 13th May 2026;
- d. To re-appoint Jo Bacon as RIBA Trustee (council member) for a second term to expire on the end of her term on Council on 31st August 2024.

Appointments to Standards Committee:

Council voted to accept the recommendations from the Nominations Committee. The update membership of

the Standards Committee would be published on the web site in due course.

Election review update

Various recommendations of the review group were approved by Council, including

- a) holding elections during April, May and June;
- b) adopting a 45 working day election timetable with the close of poll falling on the last Friday in June each year.
- c) developing a comms campaign ahead of the publication of the "notice of election" to build up awareness of elections over a long period of time than previously;
- d) the elections team producing a 5-year elections timetable based on the decision made above;
- e) that the electoral college for the role of Vice President Membership should be all members of the N&RCC Committee (noting that this would require a Regulation change);
- f) the election team producing a set of campaigning rules that are manageable and enforceable as part of the election rules;
- g) that someone wishing to seek election cannot declare or publish themselves a "candidate" until they have received confirmation of their nomination being accepted by the Returning Officer;
- h) the working group remaining in place and working on the outstanding issues and bring a final report to Council in April 2023.

President Elect introduction

Muyiwa Oki outlined his priorities for his presidential term starting on 1 September 2023. The areas he would be focussing on were as follows:

1. Climate Action - outward
2. Architecture beyond aesthetics - outward
3. Cultural awareness – outward

4. Employment and Wellbeing - inward
5. Membership engagement - inward

All the above should be set in the context of greater diversity and inclusion. He would be engaging with members and the staff team in the coming months to establish how these areas of focus could be aligned with concrete objectives. Council members were encouraged to contact him with their feedback.

Muyiwa was thanked for an exciting and interesting presentation.

Fire safety EAG presentation

Members of the Fire Safety Expert and Advisory Group Jane Duncan PPRIBA and Paul Bussey gave a presentation on the findings of the group to date. A number of points were made by Council members.

- Developers and clients might only use architects perfunctorily, e.g. for planning permission. Clients were free to cut corners in the later stages of the building process and currently architects could not prevent this.
- It was important to engage with government on this loophole and the rightful role of principal designers.
- The next generation of students needed to be educated on the subject. Paul Bussey confirmed that some work was already being done to take this knowledge into schools of architecture.
- The question of insurance for criminal liability was raised. It

was part of a large piece of work the RIBA was undertaking on PII.

The EAG would be asked to report back to Council in two meetings' time.

Jane Duncan and Paul Bussey were thanked for their presentation.

Finding and accessing architecture task and finish group

A toolkit was being put in place to facilitate work experience. Resourcing was still an issue, but this was being worked on.

The RIBA would be holding an education/practice away day at 66 Portland Place on 18 January. Council members were encouraged to attend.

Reports/Minutes for noting:

- Finance update
- Nations & Regions Council Committee
- Professional Standards
- Nominations Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee
- GDPR presentation made at the 10 October Council meeting