

## **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in the Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House.

### **Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel for 2017/18.**

The Chairman advised that the following had confirmed their willingness to be elected as Officers of the Committee:

Chairman:	Mr Stephen Metcalfe MP
Deputy Chair:	Chi Onwurah MP
Hon Treasurer:	The Lord Willis of Knaresborough
Hon Secretary:	Carol Monaghan MP

Dr Stephen Benn proposed that the above Officers should be re-elected, this was seconded by Dr John Dudeney and approved by the meeting.

The Chairman advised that the following had confirmed their willingness to be elected as President and Vice-Presidents of the Committee, and to serve on the Advisory Panel:

President	Lord Oxburgh
Vice-Presidents:	Mr Paul Ridout
	Mr Philip Greenish CBE
	Dr Stephen Benn
	Mr Atti Emecz
	Professor Ian Haines
	Dr Guy Hembury
	Professor Coin Seabrook MBE
	Ms Doris-Ann Williams MBE
	Professor Francsca Medda
Advisory Panel:	Mr David Youdan
	Dr David Dent
	Ms Rebecca Purvis

Dr Michael Elves proposed that the above Officers should be re-elected, this was seconded by Dr Mark Downs and approved by the meeting.

The Chairman formally welcomed Dr Isabel Spence who had taken up her post as Executive Secretary and Editor of Science in Parliament at the beginning of June.

## **Election of Life Members**

Professor Alan Malcolm had retired as Executive Secretary in June.

The Chairman warmly thanked Alan for his 5 years of service to the Committee. Alan has steered the Committee through an interesting period which had seen many changes and his input into the work of the Committee would be missed.

The Chairman proposed, in recognition of his work and commitment to the Committee, that Professor Alan Malcolm should be elected as a Life Member.

This was seconded by Dr Guy Hembury and approved by the meeting.

## **To Receive the Annual Report for 2016**

The Report included a Foreword by the President and a report on the work of the Committee by the Chairman, membership lists, minutes of the previous AGM, and details of meetings held in 2016.

During the year meetings were held on flood management, pathogen research, science and security, air quality, plastics, the use of radiotherapy in cancer treatment, new methods of power generation and science and warfare.

Several of the topics discussed by the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee had subsequently been included in the agenda for the Science and Technology Select Committee.

The Seminar held on Brexit - the risks and opportunities for UK Science with George Freeman MP had been very well attended. The Chairman expressed his grateful thanks to George Freeman for speaking at the event.

The British Science Week Seminar looked at the Zika Virus and the annual STEM for BRITAIN poster exhibition and competition for early-stage researchers, also held in Parliament during Science Week, was very well attended.

The P&SC Annual Lunch was held in November, the guest of honour was Ruth McKernan CBE, Chief Executive Innovate UK.

The meeting agreed to receive the 2016 Annual Report.

## **To Receive the Financial Statement for 2016**

The Financial Statement for 2016 showed a deficit for the year of £15, 641.

The Chairman advised that there had been a number of financial challenges during 2016 including additional staff costs as a result of providing cover for staff on sick leave.

Measures were being put in place to balance the accounts going forward. Quarterly publication of Science in Parliament had been resumed which would generate income from advertising and the Council would be focusing on membership retention and recruitment.

Doris-Ann Williams MBE proposed that the Financial Statement for 2016 be accepted, this was seconded by Paul Ridout and approved by the meeting.

### **Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2017**

The Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2017 had been approved by the Council. A deficit for the current year of £14,200 was anticipated.

The accumulated surplus for the previous three years was in excess of £30,000 so there would not be cash-flow difficulties. Council would receive regular updates on finances.

Paul Jackson proposed that the Financial Estimated for 2017 be accepted, this was seconded by Dr John Dudeney and approved by the meeting.

### **Subscription Rates for 2018**

The current rates, which have not been increased since 2012 are:

Scientific and Technical Organisations	£325
Industrial members :	
Organisations with fewer than 10 employees (except Trade Associations)	£300
Organisations with 11-500 employees (including Trade Associations with small secretariats)	£600
Organisations with more than 500 employees	£1,000
University members	£325
Associate members	£325

It was agreed that there would be no increase in Subscription Rates for 2018.

### **Report from the Council - Summary**

A written report from the Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

### **Membership:**

The Council were delighted to welcome the University of Bedford and the Daphne Jackson Trust as new members in 2016

Unfortunately, during 2016 nine members decided not to renew their membership (five Commercial members, two Universities and two Scientific and Technical organisations.

P&SC also lost two Life members, Lord Patrick Jenkin (Deceased) and Dr H Peter Jost (Deceased) and one Individual member, Professor Jane Plant (Deceased)

During 2017 Council welcomed the University of Portsmouth and Professor Derek J Clements-Croome as an Individual member.

Council aims to continue to increase the Committee's membership and we would welcome assistance in this objective from existing members; please contact the secretariat with any suggestions for potential member companies and organisations.

### **Programme:**

The Committee's future programme of meetings would be

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 5.30pm -	Fire resistant materials.
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 5.30pm –	Science and Brexit
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 10.00am -	Science and food manufacturing.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November -	Annual Lunch
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm -	Data

### **Science in Parliament**

Unfortunately, due to the illness and sad death of Annabel Lloyd, only one edition of *Science in Parliament* was published in 2016.

Dr Isabel Spence has now been appointed as Editor of Science in Parliament and quarterly publication has resumed. The last edition was published in June and the next *Science in Parliament* will be available in September.

The Editorial board is very grateful to all those who support *Science in Parliament* by sponsoring covers and taking entries in the Directory – and to those who contribute articles and write up their talks for publication. Any member organisation which might be interested in celebrating a significant anniversary or a particular achievement by taking a cover in a future issue of the journal should get in touch with the secretariat.

There is also the possibility for member organisations of publishing *Science in Parliament* on their websites for their members at an annual fee of £50. Please contact the secretariat for further information.

### **STEM for Britain**

STEM for Britain, the annual poster competition and exhibition for early-stage researchers was held in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House on Monday 13th March 2016.

Awards are made based on the very best research work and results by an early-stage or early-career researcher together with their ability to communicate their work to a lay audience.

To encourage maximum participation by early-career researchers and Members of Parliament the competition is divided into five subject areas:

- Biological and Biomedical Science
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Engineering
- Mathematics

There are 3 poster exhibitions and judging sessions during the day, each ending with a reception and prize-giving. The competition currently attracts around 500 entrants, of whom approximately 35% are selected to present their work in Parliament.

Judging panels for each category were formed of distinguished scientists and engineers from the Royal Society of Biology, The Physiological Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Council for the Mathematical Sciences and the Institute of Physics.

During the day, many Parliamentarians from both Houses of Parliament visited the Attlee Suite to view the posters and to meet their local early-career researchers.

### **Amendment of Constitution to provide for additional cheque signatories**

There were currently only two authorized signatories on the HSBC Bank Mandate for the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee's bank accounts and Council had agreed that there was a need to increase the number of signatories.

The Council had put in place the procedure for authorizing financial transactions and all cheques would be signed and counter-signed by two of the signatories authorized by Council.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee's constitution should be amended as follows:

‘Council shall nominate at least two but no more than six authorized signatories for the Committee Bank Account(s), one of whom must be The Committee's Treasurer. ‘

This was seconded by Dr Michael Elves and approved by the meeting.