



## PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting**, held on **Tuesday 16th June 2015**  
at 5.00 pm in Committee Room 4A, House of Commons.

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**Present:** The Earl of Selbourne (in the Chair) ,  
Rebecca Bellars, Dr Stephen Benn, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, the Lord Broers,  
Barry Brooks, Gabriele Butkute, Sir Frederick Crawford, Dr John Dudeney,  
Professor Michael Elves, Atti Emecz, Mark Garrett, Dr Dougal Goodman,  
Gwyn Griffiths, Professor Robin Grimes, Professor Ian Haines, Dr Guy  
Hembury, Neville Jackson, Paul Jackson, Dr H Peter Jost, Elliott King, Dr  
Robert Kirby-Harris, Peter Lockhart, Stephen Metcalfe MP , the Lord  
Monkswell, Tom Nicols, Patrick O'Reilly, Mick Pitt, Nigel Rees, Mike  
Robertson, Paul Ridout, Dr Julian Rose, Professor Colin Seabrook, Reg Sell, Dr  
Sarah Sharples, David Slater, John Slater, the Lord Trees of the Ross, Jon Tuck,  
Professor David Walker, Doris-Ann Williams, the Lord Willis of  
Knaresborough, Professor Michael Wood, Dr Philip Wright, David Youdan.

Professor Alan Malcolm and Karen Smith in attendance.

**Apologies for Absence** received from:

Sophia Abbasi, Dr Eric Albone, the Lord Boswell, Andrew Bridgen MP,  
Professor Anthony Chapman, the Earl of Cranbrook, Dr Derek Craston,  
Professor Dame Sally Davies, Dame Ann Dowling, Dr William Duncan,  
Professor Ekere, Professor Jane Elliott, Nigel Evans MP, Professor M Fields,  
Chris Flower, George Freeman MP, Diana Garnham , Professor Vernon  
Gibson, Philip Greenish, the Baroness Hamwee, the Lord Hunt of Chesterton,  
the Lord Hunt of Wirral, Professor Jackie Hunter, the Lord Jenkin of Roding,  
the Lord Jopling, the Lord Kakkar, Sir John Kingman, the Lord Rees of Ludlow,  
the Countess of Mar, Dr Julie Maxton, the Lord McColl of Dulwich, David  
McIntosh, Professor Nigel Mellors, Professor James Moffatt, Caroline  
Morrice, John Murray, Brian Neale, Daniel Osborn, the Lord Oxburgh, Ian  
Phillips, the Lord Ribeiro, the Lord Rooker, the Lord Soulsby of Swaffam  
Prior, the Lord Spicer of Crophorne, Edward Stansfield, Ian Taylor, the Lord  
Tebbit, Professor Michael Thorne, the Lord Turnberg, Professor Michael  
Wakeland, Lord Waldegrave of North Hill, Dr Peter Warren, Dr Tony  
Whitehead, the Lord Willis of Knaresborough, the Lord Winston.

**Minutes of previous AGM**

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 17th June 2014 were approved.

An abridged version of the Minutes was available on the web-site.



## PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel for 2015

Lord Selborne advised that following Andrew Miller's retirement a new Chairman needed to be elected.

There were also vacancies for the office of vice-president as John Slater and Dr Stuart Taylor had stepped down.

Stephen Mosely MP had not been returned to Parliament following the May General Election and therefore a new Honorary Secretary also needed to be elected.

Stephen Benn proposed the election of **Stephen Metcalfe MP as Chairman**, this was seconded by Dr Peter Jost and approved by the meeting.

The Chairman advised that all the remaining office-holders were willing to be re-elected namely:

President	The Lord Oxburgh
Deputy Chairman:	Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP
Hon Treasurer:	The Lord Willis of Knaresborough
Vice-Presidents:	Mr Paul Ridout
	Mr Philip Greenish CBE
	Dr Stephen Benn
	Mr Atti Emecz
	Professor Ian Haines
	Dr Guy Hembury
	Professor Colin Seabrook MBE
Advisory Panel:	Mr David Youdan
	Dr David Dent

The re-election of all the above office-holders was proposed by Dr John Dudeney, seconded by Dr Michael Elves and approved by the meeting.

Stephen Benn proposed the election of **Doris-Ann Williams as Vice-President**, this was seconded by Robert Kirby-Harris and approved by the meeting.

Robert Kirby-Harris proposed **Professor Francesca Medda as Vice-President**, this was seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and approved by the meeting,

Lord Willis of Knaresborough proposed the election of **Rebecca Purvis to the Advisory Panel**, this was seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and approved by the meeting.

There were no nominations for the post of Honorary Secretary and therefore the election of this post was placed in abeyance.



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### **Election of Life Members**

The Chairman spoke of the enormous contributions made to the work of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee by the past President, Lord Jenkin of Roding and by the former Chairman, Andrew Miller.

Dr Peter Jost proposed that **Lord Jenkin of Roding and Andrew Miller be elected as Life Members**. This was seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and approved by the meeting.

### **To Receive the Annual Report for 2014**

The Annual Report for 2014 had been circulated to members with papers for the meeting.

The report included a Foreword by the President and a report on the programme by the Chairman, membership lists, minutes of the 2013 AGM, and a list of meetings held in 2014.

During the year meetings were held on Badgers, Natural Capital, Marine Science, Hydraulic Fracturing, Realising our Potential, A Levels, Infrastructure, Ebola Virus, Energy Storage and Dementia. To celebrate the Committee's 75th Anniversary HRH The Duke of Edinburgh held a Reception at Buckingham Palace on 11th November and later that month our guest of honour at the annual lunch was the Prime Minister. The annual SET for BRITAIN poster exhibition and competition for early-stage researchers was held in Parliament during science week.

The meeting agreed to receive the 2014 Annual Report.

### **To Receive the Financial Statement for 2014 Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2015**

Lord Willis of Knaresborough presented the Financial Statement for 2014 which had been circulated to Members with the Estimates for Income and Expenditure. There was a surplus for the year of £8,584.

Lord Willis said he was pleased to report the most financially successful 36 months in the Committee's history.

A combination of energetic recruitment, and careful internal management has resulted in a combined surplus for 2013 and 2014 of nearly £20,000. It is likely that 2015 will also produce a comfortable surplus.

Lord Willis advised that the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee had also been very generously supported by an anonymous benefactor. This has enabled us to improve our Website, and also to hold a magnificent reception at Buckingham Palace to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During the past two years there has been considerable discussion about the future role(s) of the P&SC. The improved financial position means that we can now start to move these initiatives forward.



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The Council had approved the Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2015 and a surplus of £3,000 is anticipated for 2015.

David Youdan proposed that the 2014 Financial Statement and 2015 Estimates be accepted, this was seconded Dr John Dudeney and approved by the meeting.

### **Subscription Rates for 2016**

As the current financial position was positive with a small surplus forecast of the year-end it was suggested that the Subscription Rates for 2016 should remain at the same level as they had been since January 2012, as set out below:

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

Dr John Dudeney proposed that the subscription rates should remain at current levels for 2016, this was seconded by Sir Peter Bottomley MP and approved by the meeting

### **Report from the Council**

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

### **Summary of Written Report from Council**

#### **Membership**

The Council were delighted to welcome the following new members in 2014:

#### **Scientific and Technical Organisations (4)**

Chemring Technology Solutions Ltd; GAIN; The Genetics Society; Lloyd's Register Foundation; Society for Underwater Technology

#### **Commercial Members (11)**

The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association Ltd; De La Rue International Ltd; First Group PLC; Food and Drink Federation; Network Rail; Novolytics Limited; OptiRisk Systems; Risk Solutions; S&C Electric Europe Ltd; Siemens Plc; Vitabiotics Limited



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### **Universities (4)**

Cardiff Metropolitan University; University of Derby; University of Essex; University of Huddersfield

### **Associates (1)**

Rainbow Seed Fund

Recruitment has continued successfully in 2015, and we have welcomed the following:

### **Scientific and Technical Organisations (2)**

East Midlands Engineering and Science Professionals; Radioactive Waste Management

### **Commercial Members (5)**

AstraZeneca PLC; Cuadrilla Resources Limited; Novartis Vaccines; Oxitec Limited; Zapgocharger Ltd

### **University (1)**

Durham University

Unfortunately during 2014 15 members (6 STOs, 4 Commercial members, 4 Universities and 1 Associate member) decided not to renew.

In 2015 we have lost 9 members (3 STOs and 6 Commercial members).

It is the Council's aim 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.

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### **Programme**

The Committee's future programme of meetings is as follows:

<b>Tuesday 14th July</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>Nanotechnology – Discussion Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday 17th November</b>		<b>Annual Lunch: Sir Paul Nurse</b>

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### **Science in Parliament**

The May/June issue of *Science in Parliament* was published at the beginning of June. The next issue will be published in September.



## PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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.

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### **SET for Britain**

SET for Britain, the annual poster competition and exhibition for early-stage researchers was held in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House on Monday 9th March 2015.

During the day over 70 Parliamentarians from both Houses of Parliament visited the Attlee Suite to view the posters (210 in all) and to meet their local early-career researchers. The competition was divided into three separate sessions: Biological and Biomedical Sciences; Physical Sciences (Chemistry and Physics); and Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. Judging panels for each category were formed of distinguished scientists and engineers from the 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.

Robert Kirby- Harris proposed that the Report from Council be accepted, this was seconded by David Youdan and approved by the meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

Alan Malcolm reported that in March, our long serving (nearly 25 years) Administrative Assistant, Annabel Lloyd indicated that she wished to retire from full time work. With effect from 1st June, she is now working on a part time basis from home. She will be looking after SiP and the Annual Report as her principal projects.

We have contracted with Karen GS Consultancy to provide other office services. Karen Smith will work both from her office in Hayes, and the office in Westminster.

**The Annual General Meeting closed at 5.30pm.**