

PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting**, held on **Tuesday 11th June 2013** at 4.30 pm in the IPU Room off Westminster Hall.

Present: The Rt Hon Lord Jenkin of Roding (President in the chair), Dr Stephen Benn, Dr William Burns, Dr John Dudeney, Professor Michael Elves, Mr Robert Freer, Mr Andrew Furlong, Dr Dougal Goodman, Professor Ian Haines, Mr Ed Hayes, Dr Guy Hembury, Mr John Jackson, Mr Paul Jackson, Dr Robert Kirby-Harris, Mr Nick Kirk, Mr John Lowe, Mr Andrew Miller MP, Dr Douglas Mills, Mr Brian Neale, the Lord Oxburgh, Mr Mick Pitt, Mr Paul Ridout, Professor Peter Saunders, Professor Colin Seabrook, Mr Miles Seaman, Mr Reg Sell, Professor Peter Silley, Mr David Slater, Mr John Slater, the Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, the Lord Stoddart of Swindon, Dr Beth Taylor, Dr Peter Warren, Ms Doris-Ann Williams, Professor Michael Wood, Dr Richard Worswick, Mr Michael Yates, Mr David Youdan, Professor Alan Malcolm (Executive Secretary), Mrs Annabel Lloyd (Administrative Secretary).

Apologies for Absence received from:

Dr Eric Albone, Professor Paul Boyle, Mr Bob Campbell, Dr Therese Coffey MP, Dr David Dent, Dr Michael Dixon, Dr William Duncan, Professor Robert Edwards, Mr James Elles MEP, Ms Ann Fazakerley, Mr Peter French, Mr Mark Garnier MP, Professor David Greenaway, Mr Philip Greenish, the Lord Hacking, Professor Paul Hardaker, Professor Paul Hogg, the Lord Hunt of Chesterton, the Rt Hon the Lord Hunt of Wirral, Dr Peter Jost, Dr Nigel Kerby, Sir Alan Langlands, Professor Chris Linton, Mr John Murray, Sir Howard Newby, Mr Edmund Nickless, Ms Chi Onwurah MP, Sir Timothy O'Shea, Mr Nigel Rees, the Viscount Simon, Professor Elias Siores, Mr Graham Stringer MP, the Lord Wade of Chorlton, Mr Rob Wallace, Mr Hywel Williams MP, Professor Richard Williams, the Lord Willis of Knaresborough, Professor Duncan Wingham, Dr Philip Wright.

Minutes of previous AGM (12th June 2012)

The Minutes of the previous AGM, held on 12th June 2012, were approved and signed.

Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel for 2013

The Chairman said that several office-holders were retiring, namely:

Vice-Presidents:	Dr David Dent
	Professor Peter Saunders
	Mr Robert Freer
	Dr Douglas Naysmith
	Dr Desmond Turner
Special Adviser:	Dr Stephen Benn

On behalf of members of the Committee he thanked them for their extremely valuable service during the past year. The Committee relied on the office-holders for the advice, help and guidance they give to the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

Lord Jenkin then proposed the election of the following individuals, standing for election to fill the vacancies created by the retirements:

Vice-Presidents: Dr Stephen Benn, Society of Biology
Mr Atti Emecz, Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council
Professor Ian Haines, UK Deans of Science
Dr Guy Hembury, University of Hull
Professor Colin Seabrook, Materials UK
Advisory Panel: Dr David Dent, Azotic Technologies Ltd

The resolution was seconded by Lord Oxburgh and approved by the meeting.

Andrew Miller MP proposed the re-election of Lord Jenkin as President, which was seconded by Dr Stephen Benn.

Lord Jenkin proposed the re-election of the following officer-holders:

Chairman: Mr Andrew Miller MP
Deputy Chairman: Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP
Hon Treasurer: The Lord Willis of Knaresborough
Hon Secretary: Mr Stephen Mosley MP
Vice-Presidents: Mr Paul Ridout
Mr Philip Greenish CBE
Mr John Slater
Advisory Panel: Dr Stuart Taylor
Mr David Youdan

The resolution to re-elect all remaining office-holders was seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and approved by the meeting.

Lord Jenkin said that he felt it was time he handed over the Presidency to someone else and asked that the Committee should give the matter some thought with a view to a change of President at the next AGM.

To Receive the Annual Report for 2012

Lord Jenkin said that the Annual Report for 2012 had recently been sent to members with the papers for the meeting. He commented that he found it interesting to draft the Foreword and expressed satisfaction over the range of meetings on a wide spectrum of subjects outlined in the Annual Report. He drew attention to the meeting on Ash Tree Dieback which had been very well attended and had produced an interesting discussion arranged at short notice.

The motion to receive the Annual Report for 2012 was seconded by Mr John Lowe and approved by the meeting.

Lord Jenkin commented that the Committee was deeply indebted to Alan Malcolm for taking over in the way he had, and to Annabel Lloyd; the Committee was very well served. He also thanked John Slater who had held the fort for a time when Annabel Lloyd was unwell and Peter Simpson was also coping with health problems.

To Receive the Financial Statement for 2012 Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2013

Lord Jenkin presented apologies for Lord Willis of Knaresborough, Hon Treasurer, who was in hospital.

He said that the Financial Statement for 2012 showed a surplus for the year of £984 – the first surplus since 2008. The financial position was being turned round by heavy recruiting.

The Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2013, as approved by the Council, had also been distributed to members. They included a further modest increase in membership, figures for donations, recompense for services rendered to external bodies, and some support for meetings and dinners. The expenditure budget included realistic estimates of increases in postage, printing etc and a modest increase in staff costs. Overall a surplus for the year of £481 was anticipated.

Professor Alan Malcolm said that he was planning to continue with the drive to recruit new members and asked those present to pass on the names and addresses of potential recruits. He was also trying to improve the appearance of *Science in Parliament* by using more colour. Lord Jenkin commented that the journal was extremely successful and useful to people in Parliament who did not come to our meetings.

The Financial Statement for 2012 and the Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2013 were approved by the meeting.

Lord Jenkin said that the Committee was very grateful to the “paying” members of the Committee, without whose contribution the Committee would not survive.

Subscription Rates for 2014

It was proposed that Subscription Rates for 2014 should remain at the same level as for 2013, as outlined in a paper recently distributed to members and 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

Report from the Council

Due to the short time available for the AGM a written report from the Council (attached) had been distributed to members before the meeting.

The Chairman of the Committee, Andrew Miller MP, added the following points:

An application for membership had been received the previous day from Brunel University, and an application was expected from the University of Northampton.

The speakers at the meeting on the Importance of Bees, to be held on Tuesday, 9th July, would be Mr Tim Lovett, previously President of the British Beekeepers' Association; Dr Lynn Dicks, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge; and Mr Don Pendergrast, National Farmers Union.

All-Party Groups

He said that he had been instructed to attend a hearing of the Committee on Standards, which was holding an enquiry into the conduct of all-party groups. Dr Mark Downs (Society of Biology) would also attend to give evidence and Philip Greenish (Royal Academy of Engineering) would submit written evidence. He thought that as a result of the enquiry some All-Party Groups would be found to be too closely associated with particular interest groups but he did not anticipate that any changes would be made which would impinge on the P&SC's activities.

Mr John Lowe asked that there should be a section on the website outlining the the benefits of membership to potential members.

Report from the Council (written report circulated in advance of the meeting)

Membership

In addition to the new Parliamentary members recruited in 2012 and recorded in the minutes of the previous AGM, Lord Framlingham and Lord Trees of the Ross have joined the Committee.

In 2012 the Council were also pleased to welcome the following as new members:

Scientific and Technical Organisations: The Physics Factory; Royal Institute of Navigation; Society of Dyers and Colourists and Understanding Animal Research

Industrial Members: Autonnic Research Ltd; Azotic Technologies Ltd; Brompton Bicycle Ltd; Geomatrix Earth Science Ltd; Helius Energy Plc; Industry Capital Ltd; L'Oreal UK Ltd; R S Clare & Co Ltd; Solaris Engineering Ltd; Varley Systems Engineering Ltd; and Yakult UK Ltd.

Universities: University of Dundee; University of Exeter; Harper Adams University; Heriot-Watt University; Keele University; University of Salford; and University of Wolverhampton.

Recruitment has continued successfully in 2013, and we have been delighted to welcome the following:

Scientific and Technical Organisations: The British Institute of Radiology; British Measurement & Testing Association; British Society of Soil Science; Diabetes UK; Mineralogical Society; and Society of Chemical Industry.

Industrial Members: Ecotricity Group Limited; Energy Technologies Institute; Glass and Glazing Federation; Sheffield Forgemasters International; and Weir Group Plc

Universities: Anglia Ruskin University; and University of Hertfordshire.

Unfortunately, during 2012 thirteen members (4 STOs, 5 Industrial members, 3 Universities and an Associate member) decided not to renew.

In 2013 we have lost eight members (5 STOs, 2 Industrial members and 1 University).

It is the Council's aim to continue to increase the Committee's membership and we would welcome your assistance in this task; please contact the secretariat with suggestions for expanding the membership.

Programme

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

Tuesday 9th July: Bees and other insects beneficial to Humans
Tuesday 22nd October: Smart Buildings
Tuesday 5th November: Annual Lunch – Sir Mark Walport FRS
Tuesday 19th November: A Good Immigration Policy for Science
Tuesday 10th December: Deep Sea Mining to include Protection of the Seabed

Science in Parliament

The Summer issue of *Science in Parliament* will be published before the House of Commons rises on 18th July. It will contain reports on recent meetings on Food Testing, Speed, Skills and Water Purity. The covers will feature Links Day, the launch of "Science for Growth", the New Engineering Foundation and the British Ecological Society Centenary.

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.

SET for Britain

SET for Britain, the annual poster competition and exhibition for early-stage researchers was held on 18th March. The exhibition attracted over 70 Parliamentarians from both Houses of Parliament during the course of the day. The exhibition was divided, as usual, into three separate sections of 60 posters, selected from a field of over 500 high quality entries.

The 2014 SET for Britain event will take place on Monday 17th March.