

PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting**, held on **Tuesday 17th June 2014** at 5.00 pm in Committee Room 8, House of Commons.

Present: Rt Hon Lord Jenkin of Roding (President in the Chair), Dr Eric Albone, Sophia Anderton, Dr Laura Bellingan, Dr Stephen Benn, Dr William Burns, Robert Campbell, Gavin Costigan, Richard Cowell, Sir Frederick Crawford, Dr John Dudeney, Professor Michael Elves, Atti Emecz, Mark Foster, Robert Freer, Dr Dougal Goodman, Philip Greenish, Professor John Greenlees, Gwyn Griffiths, Professor Robin Grimes, the Lord Hacking, Professor Ian Haines, Laura Harvey, the Lord Haskel, Dr Ed Hayes, Dr Guy Hembury, Paul Jackson, Dr H Peter Jost, Michael Kavanagh, Sophie Kleanthous, Dr Cornelius Lewis, Professor David Lane, Peter Lockhart, John Lowe, Professor Tony Mann, Peter Metcalf, Anthony Metcalfe, Andrew Miller MP, Dr Douglas Mills, Professor James Moffat, the Lord Monkswell, John Murray, Dr Dan Osborn, Professor Ric Parker, Frances Rawle, Professor Colin Seabrook, Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt, the Baroness Sharp of Guildford, Professor Peter Silley, Professor Edward Stansfield, Professor Elias Stipidis, the Lord Stoddart of Swindon, Professor Eamon Strain, Jane Sykes, Dr Stuart Taylor, Professor Saul Tendler, Professor David Walker, the Lord Walton of Detchant, Dr Tony Whitehead, Dr Keith Winters, Professor Michael Wood, Professor Mike Worboys, Dr Richard Worswick, Professor Alan Malcolm, Annabel Lloyd.

Apologies for Absence received from: Professor Robert Allison, Professor Michael Arthur, Professor Martin Astbury, the Lord Boswell, Professor Ian Boyd, Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell, Andrew Bridgen MP, Professor Julia Buckingham, Alison Carr, Anna Cichowska, the Earl of Cranbrook, Dr Derek Craston, Professor Sheila Crispin, Dr David Dent, Professor Dame Sally Davies, the Lord Deben, Professor Jane Francis, British Antarctic Survey, George Freeman MP, Mark Garnier MP, Professor Vernon Gibson, the Rt Hon Lord Hunt of Wirral, Professor Jackie Hunter, Professor Tim Jones, Dr Nigel Kerby, Dr Bob Kirby-Harris, Melanie Lucas, Professor David Mackay, Mark Garrett, Dr Julie Maxton, the Lord May of Oxford, Ian Morris, Brian Neale, Sir Timothy O'Shea, the Lord Oxburgh, Sir John Parker, Ian Phillips, Mick Pitt, Professor Jane Plant, Nigel Rees, the Viscount Slim, Marijke Smith, Sir Adrian Smith, the Countess of Mar, Professor Michael Thorne, Dr Peter Warren, the Lord Willis of Knaresborough, Professor Duncan Wingham, Dr Graham Woodrow, Dr Philip Wright, Michael Yates.

Minutes of previous AGM

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 11th June 2013 were approved.

Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel for 2014

Andrew Miller commented that it was unusual for a Labour MP to have such a strong working relationship with a Conservative Peer and that working with Patrick Jenkin had been a great pleasure. Explaining that Lord Jenkin had decided to step down from the Presidency, he thanked him on behalf of everyone in the room and in the science community for the work he had put in over very many years, leading to better engagement between science and engineering and the two Houses of Parliament.

Lord Jenkin commented that at the time of the last election with the chairman standing down and both members of staff ill, he had been helped by John Slater and other volunteers, who had soon had the committee functioning effectively. He also thanked Dr Peter Jost, "a tower of strength to the Committee behind the scenes", who had reminded the officers that they should follow up Lord Oxburgh's report about the role of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, the difficulties we face and the changes we might undertake. He added that Lord Oxburgh was keen that it should be followed up.

Finally, he commented that the new House of Lords Reform Act had made it possible for Life Peers to retire. He found this very tempting but he had not yet decided. It had been a great pleasure to be President of this body.

Lord Jenkin proposed the election of **Lord Oxburgh** to succeed him as **President** – seconded by Dr John Dudeney and approved by the meeting. He also proposed that **Stephen Metcalfe MP** be elected a second **Deputy Chairman** – seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and approved by the meeting.

He then proposed the re-election of all other office-holders, namely:

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
	Dr Stephen Benn
	Mr Atti Emecz
	Professor Ian Haines
	Dr Guy Hembury
	Professor Colin Seabrook MBE
Advisory Panel:	Dr Stuart Taylor
	Mr David Youdan
	Dr David Dent

The re-election of all remaining office-holders was seconded by Dr Dougal Goodman and approved by the meeting.

Amendments to the Constitution

The proposed amendments to the Constitution had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Andrew Miller MP explained that the majority of the amendments were proposed in order to comply with the changes to the rules for All-Party Groups recommended by the Standards Committee and recently approved by the House of Commons. The status of the P&SC had to change from an Associate Parliamentary Group to an All-Party Parliamentary Group; the main difference between the two being that only Members of either House of Parliament were able to vote.

He stressed that the change of status would make no difference to the way in which the P&SC operated; the Parliamentary officers would continue to discuss matters with and be advised by the scientific membership.

In answer to a question from Mr John Lowe, the chairman replied that the drive to increase the membership of the P&SC would continue; there would be no difference in the relationship between Parliamentary and non-parliamentary members.

The chairman said that the proposed amendments included others which would change the name of the Industrial Members category to Commercial Members, which was more appropriate.

There were also three proposed amendments designed simply to improve the wording.

It was agreed that all the amendments should be taken together, and they were all approved by the meeting. A copy of the revised Constitution is attached.

To Receive the Annual Report for 2013

The 2013 Annual Report had been sent to members with papers for the meeting. Lord Jenkin commented on two events: the excellent speech given by Sir Mark Walport at the Annual Lunch and the huge success of SET for Britain, a competition involving a large number of young researchers showing their work to their constituency MPs and others at Westminster.

Mr Miller commented that the tone of the annual report was more confident than in previous years. He thanked those in the room who had contributed to the improvement. The programme had been strong and some meetings had attracted more MPs and Peers. Following Peter Jost's nudging Lord Oxburgh's report would be followed up.

The meeting agreed to receive the 2013 Annual Report.

To Receive the Financial Statement for 2013 Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2014

In the absence of the Treasurer, Lord Willis of Knaresborough, Lord Jenkin proposed that the meeting receive the Financial Statement for 2013, which showed a surplus of £11,174. The proposal was seconded by Professor Michael Elves and approved by the meeting.

He then moved on to the Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2014, inviting comments from Alan Malcolm, who said that the aim was to make a surplus which would be less than in 2013. Dr Peter Jost seconded the proposal to accept the Estimates for 2014 which were approved by the meeting.

Subscription Rates for 2015

It was noted that Subscription Rates for 2015 would 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

Lord Jenkin commented that the officers were very grateful to all those organisations which supported the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee through their subscriptions.

Report from the Council

A written report from the Council (summarised below) had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that much hard work had been done by several people to promote membership of the Committee and encourage organisations to join.

In reply to a question from Dr Eric Albone about the influence of meetings on Parliamentarians' awareness of scientific issues, Mr Miller mentioned three meetings on subjects which had proved very topical: Ash Tree Dieback in which there had been much interest; Badgers – he had been interested to see that several similar meetings had been held; and Natural Capital, which had become much more topical since the P&SC meeting in February.

Summary of Written Report from Council

Membership

The Council were delighted to welcome the following new members in 2013:

Parliamentary Members

Viscount Ridley and Mike Thornton MP

Scientific and Technical Organisations (11)

Alzheimer's Research UK; The British Institute of Radiology; British Measurement & Testing Assn; The British Society of Soil Science; Diabetes UK; Institute of Acoustics; Mineralogical Society; Royal Aeronautical Society; SCI; Society of Operations Engineers; STEMNET.

Industrial Members (7)

Ecotricity Group Limited; Energy Technologies Institute; Glass and Glazing Federation; Principle Healthcare International; Ricardo Plc; Sheffield Forgemasters International; The Weir Group Plc.

Universities (7)

Anglia Ruskin University; University of Bolton; Brunel University; University of Gloucestershire; University of Hertfordshire; University of Northampton; University of Southampton.

Recruitment has continued successfully in 2014, and we have welcomed the following:

Scientific and Technical Organisations (3)

Chemring Technology Solutions Ltd; Lloyd's Register Foundation; Society for Underwater Technology.

Industrial Members (9)

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

University (1)

University of Huddersfield

Associate Member (1)

Rainbow Seed Fund

Unfortunately, during 2013, 17 members (8 STOs, 6 Industrial members and 3 Universities) decided not to renew.

In 2014 we have lost 14 members (5 STOs, 4 Industrial members, 4 Universities and an Associate Member).

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.

Programme

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

Tuesday 15th July	5.30	A Levels – Discussion Meeting
Tuesday 22nd October	5.30	National Infrastructure – Discussion Meeting
Tuesday 18th November	5.30	Energy Storage – Discussion Meeting
Tuesday 9th December	5.30	Dementia – Discussion Meeting

Science in Parliament

The Summer issue of *Science in Parliament* will be published before the House of Commons rises on 22nd July. It will contain reports on the recent meeting on Hydraulic Fracturing. The covers will feature L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science UK & Ireland Fellowships, Parliamentary Links Day, the centenary of the Food and Environment Research Agency and 3D Printing from the University of Nottingham.

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 17th March 2014.

The event was very successful, attracting over 70 Parliamentarians from both Houses of Parliament during the course of the day. The exhibition was divided, as usual, into three separate sessions and for the first time Mathematics posters were included, extending the exhibition into the Churchill Room over the lunch-time period. In all 210 posters were on display during the day, selected from a field of over 500 high quality entries.

The 2015 SET for Britain event will take place on Monday 9th March.

75th Anniversary

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee was established in November 1939; to celebrate the 75th anniversary two special projects are planned:

The Prime Minister has been invited to be Guest of Honour at the Annual Lunch in November; the invitation is still under consideration but has not yet been accepted.

We are working on an updated version of the History of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee which it is hoped will be published in time for the anniversary. A History of the first 40 years was published in 1980; the new publication will bring it up to date.