

## Minutes of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee Annual General Meeting

Held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019** at 4.30 pm  
in the Grimond Room, Portcullis House.

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**Present:** Stephen Metcalfe MP (Chairman)

|                         |                           |                            |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Professor Mark Baldwin  | Dr Matthew Frost          | David Price                |
| Robert Barrett          | Chris Green MP            | Lord Craig of Radley       |
| Dr Stephen Benn         | Professor Ian Haines      | Professor Narendra Ramnani |
| Dr Peter Blair-Fish     | Dr Guy Hembury            | Paul Ridout                |
| Amanda Boag             | Paul Jackson              | Dr Elizabeth Rollinson     |
| Alfie van den Bos       | Dr Tim Julier             | Professor David Sampson    |
| Anne-Marie Brennan      | John Lowe                 | David Slater               |
| Commodore Barry Brooks  | Joe McHugh                | John Slater                |
| Lord Broers             | Denise McLaverty          | Lord Trees                 |
| Gavin Costigan          | Professor Francesca Medda | Baroness Walmsley          |
| Sir Frederick Crawford  | Douglas Mills             | Dr Anthony Whitehead       |
| Colin Danson            | Tom Nicols                | Doris-Ann Williams MBE     |
| Dr John Dudeney         | Dr Sarah Peel             |                            |
| Professor Michael Elves | Cassie Phillips           |                            |

Mrs Karen Smith and Dr Isabel Spence were in attendance.

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from:

|                           |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dr Eric Albone            | Paul Jackson                    | Professor Geoff Rodgers |
| Professor Michael Arthur  | Professor Peter Lillford CBE    | Viscount Simon          |
| Derek Craston             | Hannah Macdonald                | Edward Stansfield       |
| Trevor Crichton           | Andrew Mackenzie                | Lord Stoddard           |
| Professor Sheila Crispin  | Kirsty McBeath                  | Hugh Taylor             |
| Professor Sir Paul Curran | Professor Dame Angela<br>McLean | Lord Tebbit             |
| Dr David Dent             | Andrew Miller                   | Glynns Thornton         |
| Professor Josie Gray      | Carol Monaghan MP               | Lord Waldegrave         |
| Lord Hacking              | Chi Onwurah MP                  | Professor Michael Wood  |
| Dr Lucy Harper            | Professor Peter Piot            | Dr Richard Worswick     |
| Lord Haskel               | Ralph Rayner                    | David Youdan            |
| Dr Robert Hubrecht OBE    | Lord Renwick                    |                         |
| Lord Hunt                 |                                 |                         |

Apologies were also received from Mr Leigh Jeffes who was attending Science and Stormont, an event he organises each year on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and a commitment which pre-dated his appointment as CEO.

## **2 Minutes of previous AGM (10<sup>th</sup> September 2018)**

The minutes of the last AGM had been circulated to members and had been published in the Annual Report.

The Minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman

### **2.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda**

Mr John Lowe sought information on the progress of his suggestion made at last year's AGM of having a prestigious Annual Lecture. He also offered his service to support this.

The Chairman said he would pass this to the Programme Committee for who would be meeting in October.

## **3 Election of Officers**

### **3.1 Election of President – Lord Broers**

Lord Oxburgh had tendered his resignation as President on grounds of ill-health. His resignation was accepted by the Meeting.

The Chairman proposed Lord Broers as President.

This was seconded by Commodore Barry Brooks and agreed nem-con.

### **3.2 Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents, Advisory Panel and Council for 2019/20**

The Election of the following Officers was proposed by Professor Ian Haines:

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chairman               | Mr Stephen Metcalfe MP           |
| Deputy Chairman:       | Ms Chi Onwurah MP                |
| Hon Treasurer:         | The Lord Willis of Knaresborough |
| Hon Secretary          | Ms Carol Monaghan MP             |
| Officer-Vice President | Sir Peter Bottomley              |

This was seconded by Professor Michael Elves and agreed nem-con.

The Vice-Presidents and members of the Advisory Panel had confirmed their willingness to be re-elected

Vice-Presidents: Mr Paul Ridout  
Dr Stephen Benn  
Mr Atti Emezc  
Professor Ian Haines  
Dr Guy Hembury  
Ms Doris-Ann Williams  
Professor Francesca Medda

Advisory Panel: Mr David Youdan  
Dr David Dent  
Ms Rebecca Purvis

The re-election of the above members was proposed by Dr John Dudeney, seconded by Commodore Barry Brooks and agreed nem-con.

The election of the following additional members of Council was proposed by Dy Guy Hembury:

Commodore Barry Brooks  
Baroness Hilton  
Dr Inch  
Paul Jackson  
Dr Douglas Naysmith  
Lord Selborne  
Reg Sell  
Ian Taylor  
Dr Desmond Turner  
Dr Richard Worswick

This was seconded by Dr Anthony Whitehead and agreed nem-con

#### **4. Election of Life Members**

There were no additional proposals.

#### **5. Annual Report for 2018**

The 2018 Annual report had been circulated to all members.

The Chairman noted that in the Queen's Speech that day there had been reference to extra funding for science and more flexible immigration rules to support science and engineering.

The Chairman also noted that STEM for Britain and the Annual Lunch were the largest interactions of Parliamentarians and scientists within the Palace of Westminster.

Acceptance of the Annual Report was proposed by Commodore Barry Brooks, seconded by Mrs Doris-Ann Williams MBE and agreed nem-con.

### **6.1 Financial Statement for 2018**

The Financial Statement had been circulated to all members

The Chairman noted that there was a deficit for the 2018 year of £6,577 and advised that Council were actively considering how to reverse this loss into a profit.

Acceptance of the Financial Statement was proposed by Professor Ian Haines and seconded by Mrs Doris-Ann Williams MBE.

The 2018 Financial Statement was duly signed by the Chairman.

### **6.2 Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2019**

The 2019 Estimates for Income and Expenditure, which were revised by Council in June 2019, had been e-mailed to all members.

The projected deficit for 2019 was £8,600. The Chairman again noted that Council were actively working to reverse this and advised that part of the solution would be the recruitment of new members to the Committee.

On this point, Mr John Lowe asked how might existing members help recruit to the Committee and what information was needed?

The Chairman advised that Dr Isabel Spence had produced a recruiting leaflet and it was agreed that this should be circulated to existing members inviting them to recruit new members where possible.

Mr Lowe asked if this could be done before the end of November.

### **6..3 Subscription Rates for 2019**

A paper with the proposed new subscription rates for 2020 has been circulated.

The Chairman noted that the cost of membership would need to increase by 12% in order for the Committee's finances to stabilise.

The recommendation from Council was for a 6% rise in 2020 and a further 6% rise in 2021.

Professor Ian Haines, who had been involved in the Council's consideration of membership subscriptions, pointed out that prior to 2018 there had been no increase in subscriptions for over seven years and therefore, the proposed increase was 'catching up'.

Commodore Barry Brooks stated that small organisations, in addition to the proposed 12%, would also have to burden of paying VAT on their subscription which some would be incapable of reclaiming,

The Chairman accepted that this would be an issue and advised that it would be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Further discussion ensued:

Dr Matthew Frost, Marine Biological Association suggested that the lack of increase in subscriptions over the previous seven years should be emphasised when sending out the invitations to renew membership.

Mr Gavin Costigan advised that he thought that subscription cost had been very cheap for many years and that fees could be noticeably higher, especially for Universities.

Mr Colin Danson, AWE also commented that the cost of membership to the Committee was very low compared to other organisations.

Mr Paul Ridout also agreed that the structure of fees needed to be reviewed.

The Chairman confirmed that a review of fee structure would be looked at by the Council at their next meeting.

The proposal for the increase of 6% for the 2020 membership fees was then put to the meeting.

This was proposed by Mrs Doris-Ann Williams and seconded by Dr Guy Hembury.

A vote was then taken with 25 people for, 4 against and a number of abstentions. The proposed increase for 2020 was therefore agreed.

It was noted that was an opportunity to recruit more University members and Dr Tim Julier, Daphne Jackson Trust, agreed to assist with this.

## **7. Report from the Council**

The report had been circulated to all members

The Chairman thanked Dr William Duncan, Dr Isabel Spence, Mr Leigh Jeffes and Mrs Karen Smith for their support of the work of Committee.

### **7.1 Resourcing the work of the Committee**

The Chairman advised that he had been finding his role as Chair too onerous in addition to his many Parliamentary duties. As provided for in the Committee's Constitution, he had decided to delegate the chairmanship of Council to Dr Stephen Benn.

The chairmanship of the STEM for Britain Committee and the role of Chair of the Council's Working Group he had delegated to Mrs Doris-Ann Williams MBE. Mrs Williams would also assume oversight of finance.

### **7.2 Membership**

It was noted that during 2018 the Committee had lost 19 Members and gained 4 new members.

The Chairman was pleased to advise that so far in 2019 we had gained 6 new Members and he was very pleased to welcome the Royal Society for Radiological Protection, the Francis Crick Institute, the British Neuroscience Association, IBM, Novo Nordisk and the University of Westminster.

### **7.3 Programme**

It was noted that the Annual Lunch and the November Discussion meeting had been postponed due to the possibility of a General Election.

### **7.4 Science in Parliament**

It was noted that Science in Parliament was being published quarterly and circulated to all members.

The Chairman advised he was grateful to Mr Leigh Jeffes who had now taken on the responsibility for Science in Parliament.

### **7.5 STEM for Britain**

STEM for Britain 2020 will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. The website was open for applications and would remain so until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019.

**7.6 VAT**

The Chairman advised that on the advice of the Committee's Accountant, the application for VAT registration had been submitted

**7.7 Social Media**

The P&SC web-site is being re-designed and eventually will allow members to make payments on-line. The upgraded website was expected to be live by the end of 2019.

It was noted that longer term it would be possible to live-stream discussion meetings.

**7.8 The Parliamentary Scientific and Technical Foundation (PSTIF)**

It was noted that new Trustees has been appointed and the Foundation, having been dormant for some time, was aiming to be able to meet its charitable objectives.

Lord Trees advised that the Trustees would be meeting on the following Wednesday and one of the aims of that meeting would be to explore how PSTIF might assist the work of the Committee.

**8 AOB**

There was none.

The meeting ended at 5.17pm