

## Parliamentary and Scientific Committee - APPG

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held online on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021** at 12.30 pm

---

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

Dr Stephen Benn	Lord Hacking	Professor Chris Rapley
David Bott	Professor Ian Haines	Lord Ribeiro
Dr Anne-Maria Brennan	Dr Guy Hembury	Dr Elizabeth Rollinson
Lord Broers	Dr Mark Hollingsworth	David Slater
Commodore Barry Brooks	Dr Anya Hunt	Professor Mark E. Smith
Gavin Costigan	Paul Jackson	Lord Tebbit
Sir Frederick Crawford	Leigh Jeffes	Lord Trees
Dr Trevor Crichton	Anthony Kearns	Professor Cherry Tweed
Colin Danson	Dr Ashley Lenihan	Dr Peter Warren CBE
Dr David Dent	Monty Long	Dr Joe Watson
Dr John Dudeney	John Lowe BEM	Dr Anthony Whitehead
Professor Michael Elves	Andrew Mackenzie	Professor Michael Wood
Attila Emecz	Doug Millard	Dr Richard Worswick
Dr Matthew Frost	Frederick Pitt	David Youdan
Sarah Garry	David Price	
Professor Neil Gow	Rebecca Purvis	

Leigh Jeffes, Karen Smith, John Slater and Ben Allen were in attendance.

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

Dr Eric Albone	Professor Peter John	Dr Katie Perry
Sir Peter Bottomley MP	Tim Julier	Professor Narender Ramnani
Professor Derek Craston	Professor Michael Lee	Paul Ridout
Thangam Debonnaire MP	Professor Tony Mann	Nick Shaw
Professor Cam Donaldson	Professor Richard Massey	Professor Sir Paul Curran
Sandra Gidley	Douglas Mills	Sir Adrian Smith
Sir Peter Gregson	Carol Monaghan MP	Lord Willis of Knaresborough
Chris Green MP	Ms Carol Monaghan MP	Doris-Ann Williams MBE

## **2. Business from the Chair**

The Chair advised that The Earl of Selborne, who was a former president of this Committee, died peacefully at home on 12 February 2021, aged 80.

John had sat in the House of Lords from 1972 to 2020, and was a member of the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee on several occasions, chairing it from 2014 to 2017. He had a number of positions over his long career, including President of the Royal Geographical Society, Chairman of Trustees at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1991.

A Minute's Silence was then held in honour of his memory

## **3. MINUTES of Inaugural Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

The Minutes had been published in the Annual Report and had been circulated to all members.

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **3.1 Matters arising not covered in the Agenda**

None

## **4. Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents, Advisory Panel and Council members for 2021/2022**

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

The election of Lord Broers as President was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and agreed nem-con by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting.

### **4.2 Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel members for 2021/2022**

The election the following Officers, Vice-Presidents and members of the Advisory Panel was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Lord Broers and agreed nem-com by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting:

#### **Chairman**

Mr Stephen Metcalfe MP

#### **Deputy Chairman**

Ms Chi Onwurah MP

**Vice-Presidents**

Mr Paul Ridout  
Dr Stephen Benn  
Mr Atti Emezc  
Professor Ian Haines  
Dr Guy Hembury  
Ms Doris-Ann Williams MBE  
Professor Francesca Medda  
Sir Peter Bottomley  
Chris Green MP

**Hon Treasurer**

Lord Willis of Knaresborough

**Hon Secretary**

Ms Carol Monaghan MP

**Advisory Panel**

Mr David Youdan  
Dr David Dent  
Ms Rebecca Purvis

**4.3 Election of Council members for 2021/2022**

The election the following Council members was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Lord Broers and agreed nem-com by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting:

The Officers, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Advisory Panel  
Colin Danson  
Professor Michael Elves  
Mr Paul Jackson  
John Lowe BEM  
Dr Douglas Naysmith  
Professor Narender Ramnani  
Mr Ian Taylor MBE  
Dr Richard Worswick

## **5. Election of Life Members**

The Chair thanked Lord Oxburgh, former President of the Committee, for his many years of valuable service, dedication and support and proposed that he be elected as a Life Member.

This was seconded by Lord Broers and agreed nem-con by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting.

## **6. To receive the Annual Report 2020**

The Annual Report for 2020 had been circulated.

The Chair proposed that the Annual Report be accepted. This was seconded by Professor Michael Elves and agreed nem-con by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting.

## **7. Finance**

### **7.1 To receive the Financial Statement for 2020**

The Accounts for 2020 had been prepared by the Committee's Accountant, Peter Watts and had been circulated to all members.

The year end results for 2020 showed a small surplus of £5,634, as a result of an increase in subscription income from new members and savings in staff and office costs.

The Chair proposed that the Financial Statement for 2020 be accepted. This was seconded by Colin Danson and agreed nem-con by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting.

### **7.2 Financial Estimates for 2021**

The 2021 Budget, approved by Council at its meeting held on 10th December 2020, had been circulated.

The budget showed an anticipated deficit for 2021 of £7,750.

It was noted that subscription income from members formed the major part of the Committee's revenue stream, chasing unpaid subscriptions was a vital task and the budget included a provision to resource this.

Leigh Jeffes would also be continuing with the project to recruit new members.

The Chair proposed that the Financial Estimates for 2021 be accepted. This was seconded by Colin Danson and agreed nem-con by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting.

### **7.3 To ratify Subscriptions for 2021**

Council had reviewed the membership subscription rates and recommended that the increase should be in line with inflation. Subscriptions for the previous two years had risen by 6% per annum to enable subscription levels to catch up following a period of several years when there had been no increase at all.

The proposed rates for 2021 had been circulated.

The Chair proposed that the Subscription rates for 2021 be ratified. This was seconded by Professor Ian Haines and agreed nem-con by the Members of Parliament attending the meeting.

### **7.4 Grant Application to the Parliamentary Science and Technology Information Foundation**

Dr Stephen Benn advised that the Trustees of PSTIF had met on 8<sup>th</sup> March to consider an application from the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee for grant funding to support the publication of its Journal, *Science in Parliament*.

The request was for a grant of £18k to be paid over 3 years - £10,000 for 2021; £6,000 for 2022 and £2,000 for 2023.

The grant would underpin and strengthen the P&SC organisational capability and financial position for the next three years and would allow for reorganisation and reprioritisation of resources and expertise towards membership recruitment activities while ensuring it is possible to maintain standards and quality of production of *Science in Parliament*.

Dr Benn reported that the PSTIF Trustees independent of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee had considered the proposal in depth and had approved the grant.

The Meeting recorded its thanks to Dr Benn for his assistance in progressing this and to Dr David Dent for preparing the Business Case.

## **8. Report from Council**

Dr Benn advised that Council had met 4 times during 2020 - the report had been circulated to all members.

### **8.1 Resourcing the work of the Committee**

Dr Benn advised that 2020 had been a very successful year for Committee despite the challenges of Covid and thanked the Administrative Team for their support.

### **8.2 Membership**

30 new members had joined the Committee during 2020 and it was noted that the online platform for P&SC Discussion Meetings had enabled wider participation including attendees from overseas.

Mr John Lowe advised that there were a few members of the former of the All-Party Engineering Group (APEG) who would like to continue membership with the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee as Individual members.

### **8.3 Programme**

The Chair thanked the Meeting Sponsors, Carol Monaghan MP for Chairing the Programme Committee and John Slater for taking on the role of Programme Manager.

Members were invited to send suggestions for future topics to John Slater or Karen Smith.

Mr Colin Danson advised that the wider participation enabled by using the Zoom webinar platform, the increased number of meetings and the breadth of topics had been welcomed.

### **8.4 Science in Parliament**

The Chair thanked Leigh Jeffes for his report which had been circulated to all members.

*Science in Parliament* was now being sent to all Members of the House of Lords as well as Members of the House of Commons.

There was an opportunity for Committee members to advertise their own events in the Journal and to sponsor the covers.

### **8.5 STEM for Britain**

The report from Leigh Jeffes had been circulated.

STEM 2021 was again very successful despite the challenges of holding the event online.

There had been over 100 attendees for the virtual awards event on 8<sup>th</sup> March with a good attendance by Parliamentary Colleagues.

STEM 2022 was planned to be held in Westminster on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The Chair thanked Doris-Ann William MBE for her support in chairing the STEM Organising Committee.

### **8.6 Social Media**

The Committee's presence on its social media platforms had continued to grow.

The Chair thanked Ben Allen, Paul Ridout, Doris-Ann Williams and Charlotte Hall for their assistance in facilitating this.

## **9 Any Other Business**

The Chair advised, in response to a question raised by Mr Doug Millard, that requests for contacting other Committee members could be channelled through Karen Smith.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union were organising a Webinar on "Building bridges between science and parliamentarians for the good of society", on 17 March 2021. Members were asked to contact Karen Smith for further details.

**The Chair thanked members for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 13.11.**