

Council Courier

23.03.2017

This is an informal account of the discussions and decisions most recently taken at Council. Action notes and official minutes will be produced in due course.

Obituary

Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin. Particular mention was made of Padma Shri Dr. Jai Rattan Bhalla, Bob Chapman, Richard Burton, Inette Austin-Smith.

Declarations of interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

Minutes of 6 December 2016

Agreed subject to minor amendments. The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2016 still required further work to reflect a discussion which had taken place on one specific item.

Matters arising from the minutes

Financial training for Council members would be arranged by the Executive Director, Finance & Operations, plus a wider form of training embracing trustees' financial and other responsibilities. All Council members were welcome to participate in both.

Live streaming of RIBA events: due to start by end of year, starting with the Stirling Prize in October.

Library Committee and Hearings Panels – members were still needed for both.

President's report

- Brexit: the need for mutual recognition of qualifications had been taken on board by government.
- RIBA holding 'Brexit breakfast' on 29 March 2017.

- President's recent visits to Sri Lanka and Singapore reported on and the opening of chapters in both countries was proceeding.
- Presidential debates continuing with the third taking place end March 2017.
- 3-7 July 2017: International week planned, incorporating the next RIBA Council meeting and a RIBA ambassadors debate on 'Professionalism in the global context'.
- List of decisions taken during the President's term had been circulated to Council and the practice of updating Council in this way would continue.

RIBA Board report

A presentation to Council by the new Head of Venues was requested. Council noted the report.

Chief Executive's Report

- Performance Report 2016 would be published on the web site.
- A meeting of the Creative Industries Council would be held at the RIBA on 29 March 2017.
- RIBA now a member of the Professional Services Group and recently invited to consider/research Brexit-related issues facing the profession. The RIBA to allocate more resources to the team responsible for managing this area of work.

- Mann Island launch date: now 15 June 2017.

Acquisition of 76 Portland Place

A report was presented outlining the history of the purchase of the RIBA's staff building at 76 Portland Place. The report had been previously considered by the Audit and Oversight Committee and the RIBA Board.

Governance

Council voted in favour of retaining a sub-committee of Council currently referred to as the RIBA Board. It also discussed the role of the Nominations Committee; members were invited to submit further views away from the meeting.

Council agreed to the introduction of a code of conduct for trustees and would agree a final version of the draft document before the next Council meeting.

Professional Standards

Council noted the report.

Council representation review

Council discussed two options for reducing the size of Council. It voted to phase in a structure comprising up to 46 members, with reductions in the number of both regional and national seats. A phasing plan would need to be developed to manage changes over a number of election cycles. The change in structure would be subject to a five-yearly review of the distribution of nationally and regionally-elected members

Appointments

RIBA Enterprises Board: Council voted to appoint Peter Oborn, Mark Richardson and Philip Youell as non-

executive directors. It also agreed a one-year extension of the appointment of Paula Willmore to both RIBA Enterprises Board and the RIBA Board.

RIBA 1834 Hong Kong Ltd: Council approved the appointment to the board of three UK-based directors (Alan Vallance, RIBA Chief Executive, Clem Brohier, RIBA Executive Director Finance and Operations and Geoff Alsop, Honorary Treasurer)).

Vice-president for Students/Associates: Council approved the appointment of Albena Atanassova for six months, until the next round of VP appointments in September 2017.

Ambassador update

Elena Tsolakis, RIBA Ambassador for the culture of architecture, made a presentation on recent activity. Council agreed to the setting up of a working group until September 2017 to review the cultural activities of the institute and make recommendations where appropriate. The group would consist of Council and staff members and also external expertise ('lay members').

Financial and Human Resources delegation

It was agreed to resubmit the document to the Audit and Oversight Committee for final checking. The document was approved for interim use.

Membership Reinstatements and resignations:

Council noted the election of

- 801 new chartered members;
- 265 new associate members;
- 75 new affiliate members
- 1043 new student members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

AOB

- A vote of confidence in the serving Honorary Secretary was proposed by Philip Waddy and seconded by Geoff Alsop. A majority voted in favour with 1 against and 6 abstentions.
- Recommendation made by Honorary Treasurer that Council members return to the practice of submitting written questions to Council (in accordance with the regulations), rather than emailing.
- Young Architects and Developers Alliance (YADA): Vinesh Pomal to email Council members via the Council Secretary to seek possible venues which would host the very popular YADA events.
- Local Initiative Fund: plea made for further funds to keep pace with the enthusiasm for putting on regional events.
- Chief Executive thanked for his informative reports to Council.

Reports for information:

- President's Diary;
- Equality and Diversity update
- Visiting Board Report;
- Membership report
- Main committee reports
- Emotional health and well-being for architects

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