

Council Courier

10.12.2019

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. A minute's silence was held for recently deceased members including Ted Cullinan, Albert Hong, Charles Jencks, Trisha Gupta, Martin Pearce, Allan Stuckey, Michael Peter West.

Declarations of interest

All those who were applying to join the new board of trustees declared an interest concerning the recruitment process due to be mentioned under the President's Report.

Minutes of previous meeting, 2 October 2019

Agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes

The Architects Underground: Preparatory work was under way to stage a similar event in a number of locations outside London. The format would be replicated and there would also be live streaming. Once in place, arrangements would be publicised to the membership.

Brexit: Information for the profession was being continually updated on architecture.com.

President's report

Highlights:

- Stirling Prize event at Roundhouse
- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Conference, Toronto

- Manchester School of Architecture and Society of Architects
- Meeting with Housing Minister
- Guerrilla Tactics small practice conference
- President's Medals
- RIBA Part 3 graduation
- Five presidents' meeting

RIBA Board report

The draft minutes of the Board meeting of 14 November were noted.

Committee on Climate Change presentation

Baroness Brown and Professor Michael Davies from the Committee on Climate Change gave a presentation: *Progress in addressing climate change in the built environment*.

The top two risks facing the UK were related to buildings, viz 1) flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure and 2) risk to well-being and productivity from high temperatures. Greenhouse gas emissions from UK housing were not falling fast enough. Energy efficiency improvements had stalled and low carbon heat uptake was low. Homes were not adapted to risks such as flooding, and all new-build homes were at risk of overheating. Greater water efficiency was also a priority given the likelihood of water shortages in the future. A whole range of measures needed to be put in place to make new-build homes fit for the future.

UK housing stock needed to be almost totally decarbonised by 2050, which required extensive retro-fitting of existing homes. The built environment sector could play its part by 1) supporting the case for high standards, 2) championing best practice over and above building regulations, 3) post-occupancy evaluation and benchmarking, 4) training and accreditation schemes to upskill the workforce.

A report published by the CCC in February 2019, [UK Housing fit for the future?](#) aimed to assess the measures needing to be adopted in the housing sector to manage climate change impacts and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

During the ensuing Q&A session, advice was offered to Council members on ways to contribute to the RIBA's efforts on the climate emergency, including retrofitting. The RIBA was meeting representatives of CIBSE and UCL to discuss future initiatives.

The CCC would make a progress report to parliament in June 2020 on reducing emissions, provide a carbon budget analysis in September 2020 and submit its third climate change risk assessment evidence report in June 2021.

The President thanked Baroness Brown and Professor Michael Davies for their presentation, which they kindly offered to share with Council members afterwards.

Chief Executive's Report

RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge – over fifty practices had signed up and the initiative would be promoted further. An 'early-adopters' meeting would be held in January.

Other highlights:

- Clore Learning Centre officially opened in October at Portland Place.
- Beyond Bauhaus exhibition opened at Portland Place.
- Dubai Big 5 Exhibition: RIBA attended and provided CPD events.
- An office in the Middle East was being opened, in Sharjah. A launch event would be held there on 15 December.

Council noted the report.

Professional Standards report

Council noted the report.

Policy Priorities 2020

Council approved the policy priorities for 2020, which coalesced around the areas of procurement, professionalism, quality and equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). Core work streams included housing and planning, Brexit, climate emergency, building safety, education, international and EDI.

Council also made suggestions on additional areas for emphasis.

RIBA Finance

Council noted the 9+3 forecast and the October 2019 management accounts. It also approved the 2020 budget and reviewed the draft investment proposal up to 2023.

Governance

Council elected Graham Devine (South West) as the new Council member 'without portfolio' on the current RIBA Board.

New constitution: Council received an update following the SGM held on 2 October. It also received an update on

progress with the implementation of governance documents forming part of the new constitution, including the regional handbook.

The High Road to 2034: Towards a new professionalism and a new model professional

At the previous Council meeting it had been agreed to commit to the principle of promoting more exacting standards and competencies in the profession, and of enhancing the expertise of the architect.

After a wide-ranging discussion it was agreed to form a small panel to undertake an initial 'fact-finding' mission to produce a value framework for the profession. This would inform the RIBA's future strategy and would aim to bring improvements to education, CPD and procurement, among other areas. A report would be made to Council at the end of the 2019-20 session.

Membership Reinstatements and resignations

Council noted the election of

- 47 affiliate members
- 82 associate members
- 530 chartered members
- 2357 student members
- 10 fellow members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

There was a discussion on the diversity of the membership and an improvement of the RIBA's offer to members. Proposals for the latter would be considered at the next Council meeting in March 2020.

British Architectural Library presentation

The Library's director Wendy Fish gave a presentation to Council outlining the range of RIBA's activities centred on its collections. Council members volunteered their support for the cultural and outreach work and Wendy Fish and the members of her team were thanked.

AOB

Attention was drawn to the recent launch of the Future Architects' Network.

The Five Presidents' 'Five Principles' initiative had gained further signatories internationally.

Reports noted for information:

- Board report
- Equality and Diversity update
- Main committee reports
- President's Medals review
- ARB-RIBA Liaison Group meeting notes
- Supplementary question from Elsie Owusu

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