

## Minutes

TPS Annual General Meeting

Thursday 5 March 2015, 6:00pm, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

<b>Outgoing Chair</b>	Nick Richardson (NR)
<b>Incoming Chair</b>	John Dales (JD)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dominic McGrath (DM)
<b>Secretary</b>	Sara Cole (SC)
<b>Members</b>	21 attendees

### 1 Chair's report on the year (NR)

- NR began by thanking the Board members who have supported him as Chair over the past two years. After completing seven years on the TPS Board, NR noted that over this time much has happened in the world of transport planning and TPS has adjusted to new challenges as they have arisen. NR was pleased to report that TPS activities have actively continued in a variety of streams. TPS individual membership has grown and it appreciates the support of its corporate and stakeholder members. NR reminded all of the Registered Membership option that involves signing up to the professional Code of Conduct but costs no more than the Standard TPS membership.
- The TPS events programme has been busy and covered topics of significance including the aviation debate and the scheme appraisal process plus other regional and national events, some of which NR has been pleased to attend. NR mentioned that ideas for future meetings and speakers are always welcome.
- TPS continues to promote communication with its members with a particular emphasis on younger professionals. As a membership organization, NR mentioned that TPS hopes that everyone will contribute to TPS in some way and facilitating that the information age is key. The TPS website continues to be the gateway for news and we appreciate any member's views on policy matters or any other aspect of that the TPS does.
- On skills the TPS has been involved with the emerging Transport Planning Technician Apprenticeship which provides a structured approach for new entrants to the profession. Version 3 of the Professional Development Scheme is now two years old and TPS have well over 200 trainees. TPS continues to manage the Transport Planning Professional qualification jointly with CIHT and NR continues to be a member of the TPP Professional Standard Committee having completed a two year term as its Chair. During that time the committee has reworked all the TPP documentation and recast the website to make information about the qualification more accessible. NR noted that we would be pleased to see more submissions both through the Standard route and Senior route – if you're interested please find the time to put together your application.
- NR referred to the immense contribution to TPS and the profession made by Martin Richards who has been the TPS Director for Skills for some years. He has been at the forefront of developing the TPS Professional Development Scheme and the TPP, both major achievements and has contributed to TPS in many other ways. Martin's retirement means that Keith Buchan will take over as Director for Skills from July. Keith will oversee all aspects of the skills workstream. In addition we are adding resources to manage and develop the TPS Professional Development Scheme including Keith Youngman as PDS Review Manager.
- On policy, TPS has recently awarded bursaries for papers on the theme of what an incoming government should think about transport but noted that we'll have to see how pre-election promises are turned into post-election actions. Our forthcoming manifesto sets out some strong ideas for politicians old and new, and engagement of decision makers at several levels will be important in raising the profile of TPS. This has been subject to a number of meetings, and comments have been received and incorporated. Various submissions to government have been made, TPS coordinated the 'Professors' Letter' – the open letter to government, have provided inputs to the ICE's State of the Nation reports, and CILT's Vision 2035 through 'The Future of Transport Planning' joint paper. NR noted that TPS welcomes members to be involved in such policy matters, and the annual member survey provides a barometer for current thinking – NR reminded members to make sure that their views are taken into consideration.
- Raising the profile of TPS continues and TPS will continue to seek contacts with

Government and decision-makers, whoever they may be post May 7<sup>th</sup>. NR has met with a number of organisations including the Local Government Association, ADEPT and Passenger Focus and with the four sponsoring organisations of TPS: ICE, CILT, CIHT and RTPI, with whom NR and TPS has regular dialogue. NR continues to be a member of the CILT Board. In addition, some of the members may be familiar with NR's fortnightly opinion pieces in Passenger Transport.

- The TPS Transport Planner of the Year award and Best Paper by a Young Professional at the Transport Practitioners Meeting help encourage best practice in the profession. Nominations for this years' award would be welcome.
- NR turned to what has been going on around us, and explained that much has happened to transport planning in the past few years. Government spending cuts had a serious effect on the profession and while there are now signs of recovery in the private sector, local authorities continue to paste a battering. It is more important than ever to address skills shortages and ensure that our role as professionals our role as a professionals is effective and respected.
- The planning agenda continues to change with often inappropriate results which can discourage sustainable transport. If sustainable development is to be achieved then transport needs to be a core consideration, not an afterthought.
- Governance continues to be a live issue with new proposals emerging for larger conurbations. However, inconsistencies are likely to persist with some areas losing out in the funding food chain. Linking transport organisations with a wider governance continues to present difficulties. The role of Local Enterprise Partnerships in transport, the ownership of bus services and even calls for rail re-nationalisation all draw attention to a lack of integration and the lack of meaningful national transport spatial plan. The transition of the Highways Agency to Highways England may provide some stability but at a local authority level, the situation regarding road management and maintenance remains unclear.
- Some big issues have proved to be controversial including High Speed Rail, aviation capacity, the proposed roads investment programme and an apparent lack of a demand management element to policy. However, we have seen smarter choices, cycling in particular, rising up the agenda but still with a long way to go.
- NR concluded by saying that there is plenty for the successor as Chair and the new Board to get stuck into.

## **2 Financial Statement to 30 September 2014 (DM)**

- The accounts were presented to the meeting by the Treasurer.
- The accounts have been audited and returns to Companies House have been made.
- There is a healthy surplus this year of around £32,000. This increase in surplus is principally related to an increase in individual and stakeholder membership, and the associated additional fees. Expenditure on PDS reviews was lower than anticipated, as the scheme was becoming established, but a full spend on skills is projected in the current financial year.
- The current asset is therefore approximately £124,000.
- The budget for the coming year is anticipated to result in a considerably smaller surplus of £7,000.
- TPS is in a strong financial position and we hope to see membership levels remain the same this year.

## **3 Announcement of new Chair and Board Directors (NR)**

- NR thanked all the existing board members for their contribution to the board.
- NR confirmed that John Dales would be taking over the position of Chair effective following this AGM.
- Three vacancies were available on the TPS Board.
- Five nominations were received.
- The newly elected Board members (in no particular order) are Stephen Bennett, Sara Cole and John Rider.
- NR welcomed the re-elected and new Board members.

## **4 Welcome to new Chair (JD)**

- JD started by saying that he's delighted to hear that there is an increase in TPS membership and a healthy surplus for the society. After being on the board for 6 years previously, JD explained that he understands the level of work involved and is keen to see

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what he can now bring to TPS as the Chair.

- JD said that he's looking forward to working with old and new board members, keen to travel to the regions, and being a presence on the new minister's shoulder!

## **5 AOB**

- No comments – the meeting was closed.