

Minutes

TPS Annual General Meeting

Thursday 3 March 2016, 6:00pm, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Chair | John Dales (JD) |
| Treasurer | Dominic McGrath (DM) |
| Secretary | Sara Cole (SC) [absent] |
| Members | 23 attendees |

1 Chair's report on the year (JD)

Provided overleaf

2 Financial Statement to 30 September 2014 (DM)

- DM presented a summary of the accounts for 2014-15. He highlighted that a higher than projected surplus had been generated by a significant increase in membership and an underspend in some areas. The surplus leaves the Society in a strong financial position. DM outlined the budget for 2015-16, in particular highlighting that a deficit budget had been set, principally to allow for website development and increased spend on skills. In response to a question, he clarified that a deficit would be a short term requirement only. 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.

3 Announcement of new Chair and Board Directors (NR)

- JD thanked all Board members for their work on behalf of the Society.
- JD thanked those who were now standing down from the Board – Sara Cole and Alina Tuerk – for their contributions over the past few years.
- Five vacancies were available on the TPS Board.
- Eight nominations were received.
- The five successful nominees were: Dominic McGrath and Tim Morton, who will now serve their second term, and Tiffany Lynch, Stuart Northall and Joanna Ward who are new to the Board of directors.
- JD welcomed the re-elected and new Board members.

4 AOB

- No comments – the meeting was closed.

Transport Planning Society

One Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA Tel: 020 7665 2238 Fax: 020 7799 1325 tps@ice.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 3rd March 2016

Chair's Report

It's been quite a year! I was delighted to have become the Chair of this wonderful organisation at 2015's AGM, because – as I said in the supporting statement for my nomination – I love the unique role that the TPS has in promoting the transport planning profession and (especially) in informing, encouraging and enabling individual transport planners. I also love that the TPS is so inexpensive to join, so free of self-importance and so focused on being a resource to all its members.

Having previously served six years on the TPS Board, I was of course familiar with much of what the society does and some of how operates. But the necessarily all-encompassing nature of the Chair's role has been something of an eye-opener, and the workload quite a challenge – perhaps especially for someone who runs a small business. I can now readily appreciate why the Chair's role lasts for two years: you need the first to get a good grasp of everything and start planning worthwhile new initiatives; you need the second to actually get those initiatives going; and you need every year afterwards to have a (hopefully) well-earned rest.

What follows is a very brief summary of the year's highlights under each of our main workstreams.

* * *

Policy

Our policy work tends to focus on responding to relevant consultations, and there has been a great deal of this activity in 2016-16. However, we also proactively published our Agenda for Change for the new Government. Based on the views of members, both from our Annual Member Survey and more in-depth researches, the AfC establishes the profession's take on what the Government's transport priorities should be; and it was this basis of...

Events

...an excellent evening debate addressed by the Department of Transport's then Acting Director of Roads, Traffic and Local. This was extremely helpful in clarifying the Society's key concerns and helping us understand how best to get our key messages across to politicians and other decision-makers. At the other end of the events spectrum, our annual national pub quiz was a triumph once again, with even those who did not triumph thoroughly enjoying the occasion. The next pub quiz is just a week away, but its popularity means that most venues are already full.

Regions and Nations

That the quiz has become our main event nationally is because it is the only one that embraces all regions and nations. The ability for members and their guests to share a few drinks, as well as each other's company, is something I am keen to enable for the other, more sober events that each region and nation organises at other times. I think we should do all we reasonably can to make continuous professional development as enjoyable as possible, not merely worthy. If nothing else, our hard-working regional and national reps deserve 'a little something' as a thank-you!

Communication with Members

The predominant focus of our work in this regard over the past year has been the complete overhaul of our website. As many of you will have found, this has now been soft-launched. We think it's a huge improvement, although we know that there are (and will be) teething issues with it. We'll be pleased to receive any comments you have. I am enormously grateful for the hard work that Dave Whyte, Andy Costain and other Board members have put in to making this happen,

Transport Planning Society

One Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA Tel: 020 7665 2238 Fax: 020 7799 1325 tps@ice.org.uk

Young Professionals

This is an area where, going forward, there is both great need and huge opportunity to expand the work the Society has already been doing under the auspices of Katie Taylor. This Board responsibility is quite new, and reflects the importance of both enabling and encouraging to develop – for their own benefit and the profession's. In particular, we are exploring how to build on the existing programme of social events and provide new opportunities for training, education and mentoring.

Skills

Our new Head of Skills, Keith Buchan, has been hard at it this year in developing our vital work that centres around our Professional Development Scheme and the Transport Planning Professional qualification. In addition, in association with the Young Professionals workstream, we are looking at new ways of promoting and validating the less formal elements of continuing professional development that members undertake. There is much we can all do to make genuine advances in our professional experience and expertise.

* * *

I am hugely indebted to the wisdom and hard work of all my colleagues on the Board, without which... I am also very grateful for the active support of many individual members, for that of our Corporate and Stakeholder members, and that of our sponsoring institutions: ICE; CIHT, CILT and RTPI.

In the year ahead, I intend to focus my energies on what I see as the two *raisons d'être* of the Society: to promote Transport Planning and support Transport Planners. In respect of the former, I want, in particular, to greatly improve the understanding of ordinary people as to how important Transport Planning is to their lives: what they do; what they need to do; and what they want to do. In respect of the latter, I want especially to explore how we can support young professionals and bring more into the profession.

John Dales

3rd March 2016