

Minutes

TPS Annual General Meeting

Thursday 20 February 2014, 6:00pm, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

Chair	Nick Richardson (NR)
Treasurer	Dominic McGrath (DM)
Secretary	Nicola Hill (NH) / Sara Andrews (SA)
Members	30 attendees

1 Chair's report on the year (NR)

- NR began by giving an overview of the change in membership in the past year. Membership continues to grow and TPS has a good representation across locations, age groups and gender, with approximately a quarter of members now being Registered members (MTPS). TPS now has 26 stakeholder members and 13 corporate members whose involvement is greatly appreciated. Vectos and AMEC are the most recent additions to stakeholder members, Hampshire County Council has upgraded and Momentum Transport Planning has joined as a single site member.
- The annual members' survey provided some useful insights into your views on current hot topics and how the Society works. Members supported an integrated approach with land use planning, demand management including price mechanisms, maintaining infrastructure before embarking on 'grand projects' and disillusionment with DfT's approach to appraisal including accounting for carbon. NR noted that TPS hopes to repeat the survey year on year.
- A healthy number of events have taken place in the past year and the NR has been pleased to attend meetings in Birmingham, London, Bedford, Cardiff and Glasgow. He noted that he is looking forward to attending regional meetings in the forthcoming year. NR made specific reference to the aviation debate, which was a valuable event, bringing together the main protagonists. TPS hope to have similar events in the future. Also, the TPS annual pub quiz takes place on 6 March and the Transport Practitioners Meeting takes place in July. NR noted that this is a good opportunity for everyone, particularly younger professionals, to exchange ideas.
- TPS has received presentations from four bursarians this year and would welcome submissions later this year on the topic to be decided by the Board in due course.
- TPS has submitted responses to Government on a number of topics and will continue to exert influence over decision-makers, particularly where we can combine forces with other professional organizations.
- Awareness of the Professional Development Scheme is widening with 25 consultancies involved plus Transport for London, Hampshire and Leicestershire County Councils but we would like to see more local authority involvement although times continue to be difficult in the public sector.
- NR explained that he will be chairing the TPP Professional Standards Committee until May when a CIHT appointee takes over for the next two years. The Committee's Action Plan is being addressed and NR noted that TPS has made considerable progress in the past couple of years to review all the guidance notes and the web site and are now focusing activity on marketing the qualification. NR was pleased to see the number of submissions increase in 2013 and hopes that more people will submit both through the Standard Route and the Senior Route in 2014. NR added that progress has been made in getting the TPP absorbed into procurement processes.
- NR thanked the Board members who are standing down having completed their terms: Chris Mills who has fulfilled the Treasurer's role and Nicola Hill who has been the Company Secretary through the inception of TPS as a company limited by guarantee to the present. The previous Chair, Keith Buchan and our current Director for Regions and Nations, Dave White are standing for re-election. NR also thanked Dominic McGrath for taking over as Treasurer and Sara Andrews who will be taking on the role of Company Secretary.
- Transport planning remains very much in the news. NR raised two hugely contentious issues which continue to excite both promoters and objectors, namely the aviation/runway capacity deliberations and High Speed Two. NR believes it's fair to say that reasoned debate has sometimes taken second place to opinion and supposition. There are other major issues that NR thinks we should be concerned about such as the erosion of bus

services, the ever-changing rail industry and the considerable resurgence of cycling. Behind all this though is a reduced emphasis on climate change (until a few weeks ago!) and the environment would now appear to be less important than economic growth, important though that is. Embedding the principles of sustainable transport in every aspect of what we do continues to be a struggle, not least with the overhaul of the planning system which doesn't display much understanding of the enabling role of transport. We have however seen the emergence of large scale behavioural change programmes through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund programmes across the country. The links between transport and the economy, health and other sectors are becoming more evident and need to be highlighted further.

- NR gave some indications of what he believes is worth looking out for over the next year or so. He noted that the resilience of transport networks will continue to be in the spotlight with planes, trains and roads all being affected by adverse weather events. There are also high profile events such as the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow where travel planning is the key to success. There is the need to reinforce the role of local transport to decision-makers, speaking for the profession and the continued need to represent the interests of walking, cycling and public transport use as alongside accommodating the demand for travel by car. Here the importance of planning and transport strategies is particularly important at a time when local government is being squeezed more than ever before.
- For the Society, NR noted that we need to continue the themes he raised when he became Chair last year:
 - A series of high profile events across the country;
 - Promoting the skills initiative;
 - Building links with our corporate and stakeholder members, sponsoring organizations, government and others,
 - Support individual members to get involved; and
 - Raising the profile of the profession.
- NR thanked the members for their continued support.

2 Financial Statement to 30 September 2013 (DM)

- The accounts were presented to the meeting by the Treasurer.
- There is a surplus this year of around £10,000.
- The greatest financial outlays relate to skills and the development officer role – both these expenditures are considered to play a vital role in the Society.
- The budget for the coming year is relatively similar to the previous year, although costs associated with the skills initiative are expected to increase.
- TPS has increased the cost of membership for 2014 from £35 to £40. This is the first increase in membership cost for a number of years and the rise is considered necessary to continue the high quality work, including skills and professional development.
- 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)

- NH was thanked for her seven year contribution to the board and for undertaking the role of Company Secretary. It was confirmed that Dominic McGrath had taken over the role of Treasurer and Sara Andrews the role of Company Secretary.
- Four vacancies were available on the TPS Board.
- Seven nominations were received.
- The newly elected Board members (in no particular order) are Keith Buchan, Dave Whyte, Katie Taylor and David Connolly.
- NR welcomed the new Board members.

4 AOB

- No comments – the meeting was closed.