

Council Courier

27.6.2019

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 Royal Gold medallist I M Pei, Peter Collymore and John Wells-Thorpe.

Declarations of interest

There were no new declarations.

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed as a correct record subject to a minor amendment.

Matters arising from the minutes

President's Medals review: Council members were asked to feed any comments to Nicky Watson, VP Education, before August.

President's report

Outgoing members of Council were thanked for their work. The President's final report on his two years in office, 'Change was necessary', was noted, including the RIBA's strenuous lobbying of the government on the impact of Brexit and 'no deal', EDI strategy and work to address the gender pay gap, the Future Place initiative undertaken with other built environment institutes, the housing Quality Tracker, instigation of the 'Five Principles' for the profession taken up by the UK and Irish architectural bodies, and the emphasis on a response to climate change, culminating in a debate that day at Council. The President noted his satisfaction that the improvements to the Institute's finances and the forthcoming

constitutional changes undertaken on his watch would leave the RIBA with a solid foundation for the future.

RIBA Board report

The minutes of the Board meetings of 14 February and 8 May 2019 were noted.

Debate on the impact of the built environment on climate change

RIBA Council debated a motion for the RIBA to join the declaration of an "environment and climate emergency." Lynne Sullivan (a member of The Edge) and Alasdair Ben Dixon (a member of the Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission) contributed to the discussion. The following points were made:

- The global south suffered disproportionately from the effects of climate change. There needed to be close coordination between international members and representatives of the global south.
- Education of clients was also necessary – this could be facilitated by practices having usable research findings which they could communicate to clients.
- Design review panels were an opportunity to implement the green agenda.
- President's Medals should be informed for next two years by the need to respond to climate change.

- RIBA should lobby government to change building regulations.
- Infrastructure, resource services and strategic planning needed to be joined up.
- Emissions could be influenced through building design and reducing energy demand.
- Larger practices (eg from the AJ100 list of practices) were making a strong contribution but what of small ones? Basic tool kits were valuable. Simple buildings were often good buildings.

Council then endorsed the following motion:

1. The RIBA should join the declaration of an environment and climate emergency, re-stating what the IPCC Special Report has predicted for the 1.5°C and 2°C global warming scenarios, and supporting the UK Government's commitment to put into legislation the UKCCC recommendation for a UK 2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions target.

2. The RIBA should ensure that its Ethics and Sustainable Development Action Plan includes measurable actions to support a net zero carbon environment, driving change, at national and international level, in:

- a) Industry standards and practice
- b) Government and inter-governmental policy and regulation; and in c) The RIBA's own carbon footprint.

3. The RIBA should work to support chartered member practices (in the UK and internationally) enabling them to commit to voluntary reporting of core building performance metrics and to work towards the whole-life net zero carbon standard and standard Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE) reporting metrics when the guidance is available.

A motion to bring forward the target date for net zero carbon emissions from 2050 to 2030 was defeated by 14 votes to 8, with 16 abstentions.

Council also gave its approval for the RIBA to sign up to a joint communiqué with other institutes.

Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission (ESDC) - update

In response to the ESDC's report and list of key objectives the RIBA had committed funds to a five-year programme. Council was invited to comment on the action plan which had been drawn up by an advisory group led by VP Practice & Profession Caroline Buckingham.

Comments touched on the need for measurable outcomes, collaboration with professionals from other disciplines, the importance of the contribution of young architects, aspects of equality and diversity stemming from the climate crisis, and the need for small and medium sized practices to be helped to achieve ISO 14001 accreditation.

The international presidents' roundtable would meet every February to compare notes on progress made by the institutes they represented.

Mandatory Health and Life Safety CPD

An update was given on the development of the mandatory health and life safety CPD curriculum and online test, approved by RIBA Council in July 2018. Feedback was invited.

Comments:

- To avoid duplication, could an equivalence be found between this aspect of RIBA CPD and that of RSUA, which had a similar voluntary component?

- ISO18001 should be made known to small practices.
- How would compliance be enforced?
- The link up with student courses needed to be considered.

Council was thanked for its feedback.

Chief Executive's Report

- Value of the Architect campaign: a small working group had been formed by the Board to develop the business case further.
- RIBA had contributed to a select committee hearing on exiting the EU.
- Creative Industries Council: the Chief Executive and Executive Director for External Affairs Clare Corbett had attended a meeting of the CIC that morning. The RIBA had led a piece of work on immigration which had been presented to the immigration minister.
- Council elections: it was commented on that the national seats had attracted a record number of candidates whilst some of the regional seats up for election had been elected unopposed or otherwise remained vacant. This would be looked at in time for the next round of Council elections in 2020.

Council noted the report.

Professional Standards report

Council noted the report and the updated figures of cases on hold. Julia McLoughlin was warmly thanked for her work as Professional Conduct Liaison.

RIBA Finance

- Council noted the 3+9 forecast, 10-year projection and April 2019 management accounts.
- Annual report for the year ended 31 December 2018: comments on the text were still possible and should be made to the Director of Finance. The report would incorporate the results from NBS and a further report would be given to Council in September before the AGM.
- External auditor's report: Chair of the Audit & Oversight Committee Simone de Gale confirmed that the external audit for 2018 was satisfactory.
- Letter of representation: Council authorised the signature of the letters of representation.
- Risk register: noted.

Constitution Review

Council voted to agree final versions of the following new constitutional documents:

- (a) Amendments to Supplemental Charter;
- (b) Byelaws;
- (c) Regulations;
- (d) Procedural documents

It also voted to:

- convene a Special General Meeting of the members to take place on 2 October, at 66 Portland Place immediately following the RIBA Annual General Meeting, to approve the new Constitution (subject to further ratification by the Privy Council); and to
- approve the terms of reference for the Standing Committees reporting to Council, under the

- new Constitution, viz. the Standards Committee and Nominations Committee.

China Wholly Foreign-Owned Enterprise (WFOE)

In developing the RIBA international strategy, China was identified as a key market for expansion. Council resolved to note the setting up of a WFOE as the appropriate legal vehicle for delivering desired activities in the People's Republic of China.

Honours Committee revised terms of reference

These were agreed.

Nominations Committee appointment

Council approved the appointment of Jason Lebidineuse as a new member.

Membership Reinstatements and resignations

Council noted the election of

- 46 affiliate members
- 28 associate members
- 396 chartered members
- 288 student members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

Question

Simeon Shtebunaev was content with the answers received in the papers to questions he had raised on the Honours Committee and procurement.

Motion from Simeon Shtebunaev

'Council proposes the creation of an Expert Group to review current Public Procurement Practices in the UK in accordance with adopted RIBA policy stances on EDI, Ethics and Sustainability and Professional Code of Conduct in the context of ongoing Climate Emergency and the Holocene

Extinction Event; the group to review if public procurement practices are discriminatory to micro-businesses (between 0-9 employees) and deliver recommendations for changes of public procurement practices and associated policy decisions to be adopted within the RIBA activities and inform the upcoming strategic plan past the year 2020.'

After debate the motion was amended to the following and agreed by Council: *Council request Practice and Profession Committee to review each of the specific issues raised by Simeon Shtebunaev in his paper and report back to October Council on how these are being currently addressed, identifying what gaps might exist and the case for and against the need for a Special Advisory Group.*

AOB

Nicky Watson, VP Education, praised a free RIBA mental well-being workshop she had recently attended in the North East. She hoped similar events would be held on other topics.

Tim Clark raised the question of supporting existing informal international member groups with resources, which was noted; the International Director Azlina Bulmer was currently looking at how best to support such members.

Members Forum, 12 July in Bristol: VP Membership encouraged members to attend. Contact N&R administrator Alex Bulford (alex.bulford@riba.org).

Vote of thanks: President Elect Alan Jones thanked President Ben Derbyshire for his chairing of Council over the last two years, and for his stewardship of many reviews, projects and policy initiatives during his tenure. The RIBA was, in the President's words,

‘Debt free and on the march.’ His chairing style would influence those who came after. Council heartily endorsed the vote of thanks.

Reports noted for information:

- Equality and Diversity update
- International update
- Cultural outreach update
- Expert Advisory Group on Fire Safety update
- Main committee reports
- Visiting Board report

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