

Minutes

TPS Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23 February 2011, 6:00pm, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

Chair	Victoria Hills (VH)
Treasurer	Nick Richardson (NR)
Secretary	Nicola Jones (NJ)
Members	52 registered for event, 38 attended.

1 Chair's report on the year (VH)

- VH reported back on delivery against her Chair's manifesto objectives set by herself in February 2009.
- VH noted she had set about reforming the Board to ensure it evolved into a slick and functional operation and was pleased with the progress she had been able to make over the last two years as Chair, and for seven years as a Board member.
- VH thanked all for giving her the opportunity to take up the position of Chair and wished the Society well for the future.

2 Financial Statement to 30 September 2010 (NR)

- NR presented the accounts for October 2009 to September 2010 which showed a deficit of around £7000, attributable to rising costs.
- The importance of membership subscriptions was stressed for the current year as this is the main source of income which therefore determines the extent of the Society's activities.
- No questions were raised.

3 2010 Bursary of the Year Award (VH)

- The 2010 bursary programme attracted a lot of interest with over 20 applications for 5 bursary funds.
- Given the quality of the submissions the Board decided to increase the number of bursaries to 6.
- To recognise excellence VH wished to establish an annual award to recognise the best bursary submission.
- A meeting was held in January where bursarian's presented their study findings to the Board. Following the meeting, Board members were asked to vote on which bursary was of the highest quality. Unable to decide between two bursaries it was agreed that both would receive the 'Bursary of the Year' award at the AGM.
- The 2010 Bursary of the Year award was presented to Graham Grant, Newcastle City Council. Bursary title – *"Should sustainable transport planning be the fodder of transport planners and politicians or is it time for grassroots activism? How creative uses of public space can help to influence travel patterns and travel demand"*.
Mark Powell, MVA London. Bursary title – *"Can transport really help the national economy to grow? And if so, how do we choose between projects in the Age of Austerity?"*.

4 Announcement of new Chair and Board Directors for 2011 (VH)

- Two existing Board members have been nominated for Chair – Nick Richardson and Keith Buchan.
- VH noted that it has been a long time since there has been a vote to elect a Chair of the TPS Board. The interest in the position shows a healthy interest in the TPS.
- The tally of votes shows there is very little between the two candidates.
- VH announced the election of Keith Buchan as Chair.
- Three vacancies were available on the TPS Board. VH thanked the two Directors stepping down from the Board (Bob Coe and Emma Roberts). The other vacancy is a result of the current Director, Nick Richardson, coming to the end of his first 3-year term. Nick is standing for re-election.
- Five nominations were received for the three Board Positions.
- The new elected Board members (in no particular order) are Nick Richardson, Christopher Mills and Dave Whyte.

Transport Planning Society

5 Welcome to New Chair (KB)

- KB thanked the membership for giving him the responsibility of chairing the Society in a very challenging period. He paid tribute to VH not just for providing great public face for TPS, but for her effective supporting work behind the scenes. He also thanked the outgoing Board members, ER and BC for their hard work. BC will continue to lead on the website.
- He said that TPS faces three key challenges. The first is to consolidate the major progress that has been made, especially in skills, but also in the lively events and regional development programmes. He promised to match VH's commitment to visit all TPS regions during his time as Chair.
- The second challenge is how to support the profession in a very difficult period, to ensure that skills are not lost, that transport decision making in the age of austerity is robust and transparent, and that transport planning is valued and fostered in central and local government. We need to bring together a wide range of disciplines, as always transport and land use planning, but nowadays the mix includes civil engineering, psychology, economics, vehicle technology and the social changes flowing from a newly connected world. Transport planners are at the centre of this and must play a key role in making sense of it all.
- The third is how the Society itself evolves – like any organisation it cannot stand still. Engaging with our members will be critical to maintaining and developing a strong and independent voice for the profession in a time of change.

6 AOB

Questions / Points Raised

Member comment – Use of private funds to support research

TPS response – We recognise the loss of bodies such as CfIT and UKTRC and are trying to lead a response on these issues to central Government.

Member comment – Given the changing nature of the Transport Planning Profession TPS should consider collaborating with other institutions.

TPS response – TPS has a record of working with others but we are pledged to continuing to reach out to transport planners both directly and through formal and less formal bodies.

Member comment – The future of transport planning is changing and we should try and prepare for these changes.

TPS response – Given the wide range of disciplines which transport planning encompasses and the change in emphasis for transport spending, TPS will need to remind everyone of the need to bring them all together in an integrated and sustainable way - remarketing the TP discipline.