

Minutes

TPS Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 24 February 2010, 6:30pm, Institution of Civil Engineers, London

Chair	Victoria Hills (VH)
Treasurer	Nick Richardson (NR)
Secretary	Nicola Jones (NJ)
Members	46 registered for event, 35 attended.

1 Chair's report on the year (VH)

- When elected as Chair in 2009 VH had a list of priorities for action, many of which have been achieved.
- These priorities have now been formulated into a TPS Strategic Plan which will be covered in more detail in item 4.
- TPP qualification and skills area is continuing to be a success.
- Despite the last year being a difficult one for the industry, membership has continued to grow and TPS currently has 1,062 individual members.
- VH is especially pleased at measures that have been implemented to improve communication with the membership. VH thanked Andy Costain, the TPS Development Officer, for her assistance in coordinating the monthly e-bulletin which is sent to members informing them of the latest news and events. VH also noted that the survey of TPS membership was a success, with over a third of members responding to the survey. Results of the survey will be published soon.
- The last year has seen a number of successful national and regional events. A particular success was the first National TPS Pub Quiz which saw over 400 participants competing in over 50 teams nationally.
- VH thanked the supporting institutions (ICE, CIHT, CILT and RTPI) for their continued contribution to the TPS.
- VH noted she had held the first corporate and stakeholder forum in June 2009, the first roundtable discussion with past TPS Chairs in July 2009 and a first Board Awayday in October 2009.

2 Financial Statement to 30 September 200 (NR)

- NR welcomed the growth in membership and stressed the importance of maintaining high membership numbers to maintain TPS income.
- No questions were raised from members on the accounts.

3 Announcement of Executive Board and Directors for 2010 (VH)

- Six vacancies were available on the TPS Board. VH thanked the Directors stepping down from the Board (Richard Walker, Reg Harman, Bill Wyley and Mike D'Alton). The other three available spaces are a result of three current Directors (Nicola Jones, John Dales and Gemma Stern) coming to an end of their first 3-year term – all three are standing for re-election.
- Nine nominations were received from members.
- Due to a conflict in interest, VH rather than NJ verified and announced the results of the members ballot.
- The new elected Board members (in no particular order) are Keith Buchan, John Dales, Nicola Jones, Amrit Mudhar, Gemma Stern and Charlotte Welch.
- VH noted that nominees who were not successful in the ballot will be contacted to discuss how they could be actively involved in TPS activities.
- VH welcomed the high number of nominations and indicated that this further illustrates that the Society is in good shape.

4 Proposals for the Year Ahead (VH)

- VH launched the TPS Strategic Plan – a 10 year plan for the TPS. All members were encouraged to review the consultation draft which is now available on the TPS website. Comments on the draft plan are welcome up until the end of April 2010.
- VH noted that the Strategic Plan was on the TPS website and a link would be circulated to all members via the March e-bulletin and the next edition of All Change.
- The Plan includes a number of the Chair's previously identified priorities including policy, qualifications and regional growth.
- In addition to the Strategic Plan, the TPS is also preparing a TPS Manifesto. This will be developed following the 2010 Election Manifesto event on 16th March in London. The aspiration is that this will be presented to key stakeholders in the three main political parties prior to the General Election.
- The policy tag line for 2010 is "*Getting sustainable transport planning right into an age of public sector austerity*". This will be used to inform our bursary and events programme.
- The highly successful National TPS Pub Quiz is to take place again on Thursday 4th March. Demonstrating the success of the event regionally, VH noted that over 96 people have already registered for the event in the West Midlands and this year there is even a break-away event in Winchester in addition to the London / South East event.
- VH will host another Corporate and Stakeholder member forum in 2010.
- VH will also host another roundtable discussion with past TPS Chairs in 2010.
- A summer social will be organised and members are asked to look out for details, and VH noted there would be an annual dinner in autumn 2010.
- TPS will continue to support the 'Transport Planner of the Year' and 'Best Paper by a Young Professional' awards at the Transport Practitioners Meeting, which this year is being held in York.
- VH stressed the importance of members helping to formulate the events programme. Members are encouraged to contact TPS regarding any suggestions / ideas they have for future events.

Questions

1) Does the 1,062 membership total include Corporate and Stakeholder members?

TPS response - No, in addition to the 1,062 individual members there are approx 50 Corporate and Stakeholder members.

Member comment – TPS need to raise the awareness of our growing membership numbers to raise our profile and the profile of the profession.

TPS response – Press releases have been made to the industry press regarding our growing numbers / influence.

2) Congratulations were noted to the TPS Chair, VH, on her dynamic first year. Given the development of the TPS Manifesto - if there was a hung parliament, would TPS be prepared to inform a government party?!

TPS response – TPS would need to be mindful of the consequences of a hung government. The overall aim of the Manifesto is to do what we can to raise the quality of the transport debate in the run up to the General Election.

3) Carbon is such a big issue, with Friends of the Earth reporting that 36% of all emissions in the UK come from transport. Would TPS be interested in sending a representative to a panel that acts on large scale planning proposals alongside other experts – to add an expert opinion to the decision-making process? This would also increase the profile / prominence of TPS.

TPS response – It is something that we would consider but the issue the Society has is how to resource such an initiative. TPS resources are limited. However our involvement in such panels will be considered and suggestions should be discussed further with the TPS.

4) There is the ongoing issue of modelling being a requirement of the TPP qualification. This conflicts with transport planning being a broad subject with many transport planners coming from urban design / planning backgrounds and therefore very unlikely to have any experience in modelling. Should other disciplines, such as an expertise in urban design, be considered as equally important? By including the mandatory modelling element in the TPP a number of people, who may have otherwise tried to attain the qualification, are excluded.

TPS response – This issue has been discussed at some length and the inclusion of modelling as a mandatory requirement wasn't taken lightly. Following discussions with employers it was

TransportPlanningSociety

considered to be a skill that was needed. However as it has been raised as an issue at the AGM an action will be raised with the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) to re-examine the inclusion of the modelling requirement.

5 AOB

Nothing to add. VH thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.