

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**DUNDEE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021**  
**Virtual meeting hosted by Ian Muir, PDIA**

**1.0 Attending** P. Gunning, A. Macdonald, D. McLachlan, F. Middleton, I. Muir, C. Palmer, G. Sinclair, K Smith.

**2.0 Apologies** L. Beltran, R. Brunton, R. Cathro, J. Frullani, J. Purves, J. Shanks, K. Smith.

**3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

3.1 Discussions over The Martin Jones Award were ongoing with RIAS / University.

3.2 It was noted that the RIAS Practice Committee had discussed three main topics at their last meeting: 1) Decarbonising construction. 2) The challenges and problems facing the industry due to greatly inflated insurance premiums (including discussions with ARB and insurance market to justify these hikes). 3) The development of the RIAS CPD offering.

3.3 President had presented the annual DIA report to RIAS for inclusion in their AGM report.

3.4 RJHB and IM had discussed speakers, cost and format for the DIA Awards Dinner.

3.5 DMcL informed Council that the RIAS Strategy Working Group proposed a refreshing of the RIAS website. The new DIA website had been well received. DMcL requested feedback on what people think of the current RIAS website in order that it can be improved.

3.6 AMacd noted that he had attended a number of COP 26 meetings since the last DIA Council meeting. It was confirmed that the Dundee launch event will now be on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in order to tie in with the opening of the 'Travel Hub' at the Waterfront.

3.7 It was noted that the cycle event which DIA was to partner with Round Table had stalled due to the impending school holidays and lack of time to co-ordinate the event.

3.8 An electric bike event from University Sports Grounds at Riverside to Broughty Ferry had been progressed. This will take advantage of the newly installed communal, public electric bike installations and reinforce the coastal cycle path/ tidal markers initiative.

3.9 It was stated that initiatives were being investigated over chalk painting tidal markers on buildings to show water markers as part of the COP26 event.

3.10 Cardboard and timber pallets were mooted as being potential construction materials for the DIA stand. This could be designed as a competition by members or students. A prize would need to be considered in due course. This stand could then be relocated and form part of the 'shopfront' contribution. Discussions over the shopfront allocation are ongoing.

3.11 It was confirmed that a series of CPD talks were being investigated after 26<sup>th</sup> September. These talks would be open to the public. Any suggestions for talks or subjects to discuss would be very welcome and should be forwarded in order to prepare a programme / dates for potential speakers. Venues will depend on Covid19 regulations and Government guidelines.

3.12 The legacy of the COP26 event was to be considered further.

3.13 It was noted that poet, Robin Bell was willing to contribute a piece. DIA Council need to consider what message we are trying to communicate to people. A theme is needed for Robin before next Sustainability Group meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

3.14 Council was made aware that the RIBA had introduced a 3-day Conservation accreditation qualification. This is a three-tier system but is easier to get onto and be recognised than the RIAS version. The RIBA process is quicker and can be done on-line. The RIAS is not keen to introduce a three-tier system but realises the RIBA version could be a serious threat to their own stricter accreditation process.

3.15 KS enquired whether Council was aware of other local authorities had taken the same initiative as Glasgow City to prioritise conservation of existing building stock in a climate emergency perspective. No-one was aware of other local authorities taking this approach.

3.16 A request from RIAS Conservation Committee was noted enquiring about current difficulties in obtaining building materials. This will have an impact not only on programmes but also claims for delay, extension of time, etc.

3.17 KS noted recent 'circular economy' discussions for works other than demolitions. It would appear that there are very limited places for materials to be recycled. There are effectively no architectural salvage or recycling plants in Scotland. Decarbonising construction is an important consideration. This is to be discussed further.

3.18 KS was conscious that although both herself and IM attended the RIAS Conservation Working Group they felt that they could not contribute as effectively as they could due to the lack of formal accreditation. It was proposed that former Council member Doug Reid could be the formal voice on this forum and that Doug should be asked. Council agreed that KS and IM should however continue to attend and contribute on behalf of the DIA.

3.19 It was noted that there was currently a lot happening on the DIA social media platforms. The website is for DIA members. The Facebook and Twitter links currently share RIAS information. A plan of action as to what goes where needs to be developed. Jodie Black of 'Kerry Smith Architects' has kindly offered to set up and manage a DIA 'Instagram' account. Marcus Miles a 5<sup>th</sup> year Dundee student from ADAS is also currently assisting in keeping the website current. Marcus works for 'Fergus Purdie Architect' and will be available until August 2022.

3.20 It was confirmed that the student liaison and mentoring process was being progressed and formalised.

3.21 Congratulations were given by Council to Jenni who had just had a baby.

3.22 Sponsors from the last DIA Awards dinner are to be pursued for this years event.

3.23 RIAS Practice Services had forwarded details of a potential Client looking for work to be done in the DIA area. How to do this in a fair manner was discussed in order that there could be no dispute over favouritism or perceived recommendation. It was agreed that this opportunity should be posted on the DIA website for any interested Practices to respond to. A deadline would be given after which IM would then furnish any practice details to the interested party without prejudice for the individual to progress.

#### **4.0 Date of Next Meeting:**

6.00pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Attendance will continue to be 'virtual'.