

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**DUNDEE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**  
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021**  
**Virtual meeting hosted by Ian Muir, PDIA**

**1.0 Attending:** R.Brunton, R.Cathro, J. Frullani, A. Macdonald, D. McLachlan, F. Middleton, I. Muir, C. Palmer, J. Purves, K. Smith.

**2.0 Apologies** J. Purves, J. Shanks, G. Sinclair

**3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

3.1 The inaugural DIA Sustainability Award had been successful and all looked forward to seeing the Winner featured in 'The Courier'. The Winner was Kirsty Maguire Architect Ltd with the Urban Woodland Passivhaus Home.

3.2 IM noted that the new CEO for RIAS had been offered the post but RIAS had as yet still to confirm who the successful candidate is. This is expected to be announced imminently by RIAS.

3.3 IM confirmed that he is to attend the Chapter Presidents forum in the near future and would appreciate any ideas that DIA might be involved in. A number of good environmental initiatives are needed. A list is to be formulated which can inform discussion at the DIA Sustainability Group. This group planned to meet every Monday prior to the DIA Council meeting in order that Council can be kept abreast of progress. Funding from the RIAS (and RIBA; although through RIAS and not direct to Chapters) is to be investigated. It was noted that the DIA Awards dinner (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November) was being held only a week after COP26 (which will run from 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021) so it was hoped that some initiatives could link through into the Awards dinner.

3.4 Council was reminded of the RIAS Convention which was to be based in Glasgow albeit the Convention itself would be held remotely /virtually over four days.

3.5 Council was reminded that RIAS had called for RIAS Council nationally elected nominees along with candidates for President and RIAS South RIBA Council. All members seeking election should contact the RIAS.

3.6 IM stated that HES was seeking guidance / advice from experienced practices regarding working on historic / Listed buildings and monuments. Those who felt they could contribute should contact HES directly.

3.7 It was agreed that now would be a good time to publish electronically a version of DIALOGUE. This could feature all the entries from the Sustainability Awards, the new DIA Presidents address, promoting the new website and Awards Dinner, etc.

3.8 DMcL informed Council that he had accepted, the role of a Director with APEAS. Council noted that DMcL has been particularly active in defending a member of his staff with APEAS in the recent past and congratulated him on being awarded this important post.

3.9 Discussions over re-igniting the DIA CPD programme were ongoing. Generalities of the programme building on its previous success had been discussed and where the initiative goes from here. Whether it becomes a lunchtime event or happens at different times and

venues. It was felt that events should happen every two weeks and that some events could be virtual and it may be developed as a virtual presentation every alternate event.

3.10 Rebecca Wade (RW) at the University of Abertay, Dundee who was involved in numerous projects and local initiatives surrounding COP26 had been contacted and a mutual working relationship is to be developed for DIA's contribution to the initiatives around COP26.

3.11 Council was informed of the current initiative of tidal talks with interactive maps showing tidal changes along Scotland's coastline caused by global warming. There was potential to involve schools and Councils to perhaps design signs, etc that could be erected at the 'high water' mark of these projected tidal changes. These could then inform other tidal talks in the DIA area.

3.12 It was noted that 'Green Health Week' in Dundee would be in May. Although this was imminent it was hoped that the DIA could still contribute as it was important to tap into the knowledge of other organisations for the betterment of our members and society in general. The DIA had produced a local walking map in conjunction with Dundee Heritage Trust during the Festival of Architecture 2016 and this could still be used. The information from this and subsequent Doors Open Days was readily available if required.

3.13 Although the new website had gone 'live' it had been underestimated how much time it needs to keep it current. A call be put out to ADAS students and, members to enquire whether any would be willing to assist.

3.14 Council representatives met with the University regarding mentoring and the relationship between DIA/RIAS and Dundee University. The discussions were very positive and wide ranging but was focused on improving the structure of the links between the DIA and the University. The recent engagement of various DIA Council members in Q&A sessions with both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years was discussed. It was proposed that it may be structured into six monthly Q&A sessions (either virtual or live) that could be integrated into the University's new syllabus for professional practice currently being created in response to the RIBA Education Review. While currently focused mostly on Part 1 and 2 students, as this process evolves it may move a greater level of professional practice teaching into the earlier years, it was agreed that structured Q&A (with full gender and age representation) would be a good starting point for greater, more structured engagement that could be built upon going forward. Both parties needed to standardise the communication paths to have the contacts agreed on both sides so that regardless of personnel involved the communication routes can be maintained going forward. It is accepted that the involvement of external practitioners in the delivery of the curriculum is likely to be a long-term aspiration rather than something that will be in place any time soon. This would require careful consideration to ensure what it being offered every year is consistent and in accordance with what is required.

15.3 The DIA AGM had been well attended with 32 attendees. This was particularly gratifying as it had again unfortunately had to be held 'virtually'.

## **17.0 Date of Next Meeting**

6.00pm Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Notification will be issued in due course over the hosting of this meeting which will still be by 'virtual' means.