

**MINUTES OF MEETING
DUNDEE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
Tuesday 12th April 2022**

This virtual meeting was necessitated by the self-isolation procedures implemented by Government in a bid to stem the effects of Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic. The President welcomed all to the screen. The meeting was conducted through the ZOOM platform.

1.0 Attending

Rodger Brunton, Fiona Canavan, Alan MacDonald, Diarmid Mclachlan, Fraser Middleton, Ian Muir, Christine Palmer, Jenni Shanks.

IM welcomed Sarah Brown from J & H Mitchell WS, Pitlochry. A presentation was then given regarding the potential options for changing the corporate standing of DIA to a SCIO; followed by a Q&A session. This included options and “pro’s” and “con’s” such a re-organisation may entail. It was anticipated that any change would take a year to reach fruition and come into effect. This presentation will be uploaded to the DIA website for all members to view and comment. DIA Council is to actively engage with the membership to gauge opinion and encourage people to get involved. SB thanked DIA for the opportunity to address Council. IM returned thanks to SB for her informative presentation. DIA is to consider the points raised. IM is to request a fee quotation from SB. It is understood that RIAS will contribute financially to the legal cost based on previous experience of ‘Edinburgh Architectural Association’ and ‘Glasgow Institute of Architects’ recent changes.

2.0 Apologies

Jon Frullani, Jonathan Reeve.

3.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by those present.

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1,4.2,4.2.5.1: Presidents letter to Keith Winter, IM still waiting substantiation information. It was noted that Keith Winter has moved on from this post. The current incumbent is now Ian Gourlay. A letter of congratulations is to be sent with a request for a meeting in due course to discuss the poor performance of Planning in Fife.

4.2 , 4.2 IM noted Kerry Smith ongoing discourse with Chris Perry at RIAS to increase dialogue with membership. Evidently this is an issue for all Chapters.

4.3, 4.5, 5.8 DCC has offered the DIA to have a ‘projection’ project in town – ideas for suitable locations were requested. Due to the lightening evenings this would probably now happen in the Autumn.

5.0 Presidents Report

5.1 IM was pleased to report that he had represented DIA as a judge at the Aberdeen Society of Architects Awards. This has proved to be an excellent event

with many super buildings features. The Supreme Award was presented to 'Moxon Architects' for Quarry Studios near Crathie. IM suggested that a bus tour of around 4 buildings could be organised as part of next terms CPD events.

5.2 As noted in 5.5 of the previous Minute (08.03.22) IM encouraged that the funds received from RIAS for the COP26 surplus could be expended by initiating a Young Architects Competition (say 5 years or less out of University). The DIA could then build other events around this. It could be that we encourage other partners within the Dundee area to get involved. It was agreed by Council to support this initiative. Fiona Canavan was tasked with developing this event. FC noted that UNESCO had been seconded to V&A Dundee and this may be a good opportunity to interact with them and start a dialogue between the two bodies. 'Sustainable Dundee' was also mentioned as an outlet/working group.

5.3 IM informed Council of the change of name from 'Inverness Architects Association' to 'Highlands and Islands Architectural Association'. Although there were potential changes afoot with charitable status and a review of the Constitution / Byelaws it was felt that the DIA did not need a name change.

5.4 IM noted that he had written the DIA contribution for the latest instalment for 'RIAS Quarterly'.

5.5 The post of DIA Vice-President was discussed. Although RJHB has generously agreed to fill this post until a suitable candidate comes forward an active search needs to continue. IM noted that other Chapters across Scotland were having the same issues in filling some of their posts.

5.6 Although Kerry Smith had offered to continue as DIA Conservation representative on RIAS Conservation Committee she expressed concern that she had felt compromised as she was not suitably accredited. IM had therefore reached out to Paul Higginson of 'ARC Architects'. PH stated that he could potentially fill this role. IM to investigate further as a procedure for reporting to DIA Council would have to be established if PH was not to be voted on to Council.

6.0 Vice Presidents Report.

6.1 The Annual DIA Quiz is to be held on Thursday 28th April at Monifieth Golf Club.

7.0 Treasurers Report

7.1 CP noted that nothing had been received yet from RIAS over the 'Wood For Good' initiative or the DIA's share of the COP26 finance (£600).

7.2 CP noted the balance in the current account as £15,085.22

- The RIAS grant of £1,044.97 has been received.
- £6.50 had been expended to Bank charges.
- The 'Scottish Widows' account had realised an interest payment of £0.27(!!).

8.0 J. Shanks Report

8.1 JS encouraged any Practice to come forward to taking year out students as it was incredibly difficult for students to find placements during this ongoing pandemic and restrictions. Any vacancies could be advertised on the DIA website.

8.2 JS suggested that there should be Student representatives on council. It was confirmed that the President of ADAS is invited to attend. This is to be investigated further and students encouraged to attend. A formal Student Representative on Council may form part of the Constitutional review.

8.3 JS suggested that there should be a 'Young Engagement Initiative' in order to engage with younger/student members of the profession. JS is to reach out to the EAA to establish how they encourage interaction with the University.

8.4 JS to contact Gary Sinclair to discuss future initiatives with the University.

8.5 JS was please to inform Council that she had been voted back on to the RIAS Education Committee. This puts the DIA in a strong position as Gary Sinclair is already on this Committee.

8.6 JS is to reach out to the Procurement Working Group.

9.0 A Macdonald Report

9.1 AMacd noted that only one team had responded to the Quiz Night invitation. CP confirmed that she had responded. This had not been received. After some testing it was established that the link was compromised and some e-mails were not being received. AMacd is to pursue this with Kerry Smith.

9.2 AMacd offered to assist IM in judging the Final Year Student Awards.

9.3 Final Year Award was discussed. It was agreed to transfer the money via Bank Transfer rather than to present a cash prize. Provision should be made to present that Winners Certificate and to hang it prominently on the wall in an appropriate location next to the successful students work. This will provide an opportunity for a photo opportunity and promotion of the DIA. It was confirmed that the University would provide a short list of six Candidates for the Award although all participants would be considered in the initial walkaround.

10.0 D.McLachlan Report

10.1 DMcL apologised for missing the AGM due to a last minute illness. Thankfully recovery was progressing well.

10.2 DMcL reported that he had attended the RIAS Council meeting on 30th March. Arising from this:

- All Chapters appeared to finding it difficult to fill Council spots.

- A short-term working group had been formulated to consider remuneration payments to PRIAS.
 - RIAS Membership Secretary, Charlene Rankin had unfortunately left the RIAS with immediate effect to be placed on gardening leave. It was not elaborated on why this process was deemed necessary. This will be loss to the organisation.
 - RIAS Honorary Fellowships were discussed and agreed upon. From the original proposed list all were female with a solitary male candidate. It was felt that Fellowships should be granted on ability rather than sex/race. Six (the maximum allowed under current byelaws) candidates are to be invited to accept Honorary Fellowships.
 - RIAS Convention is to be held in Inverness on 30th September / 1st October. It was hoped that this could be part of the Caledonian Canal 200th Anniversary celebrations.
 - It had been noted that the brutalist Cumbernauld Town Centre was proposed to be demolished. DMacL was saddened that its replacement was to be nothing more than more anonymous. This view was shared by Council. The AJ's April 1st headline that it was to be relocated to the Barbican was appreciated.
- 10.3 DMacL noted that he was to retire imminently from Fife Council. He informed Council that a change of contact details would shortly be issued and requested that all information/correspondence be re-directed. Council wished DMacL a happy and healthy retirement. This was particularly well deserved as he had firmly established himself as one of, if not THE, leading school designers in the UK. He would be a notable loss to Fife Council and developing the vision of contemporary school design in Scotland.

11.0 F. Canavan Report

11.1 FC to progress the Young Architects Award.

11.2 FC encouraged to make comment on the current Constitutional review.

12.0 F. Middleton Report

12.1 FM confirmed that 'Dundee Doors Open Days' invites are being prepared and that assistance will be required shortly to engage with the venues in order to establish whether they will be a virtual visit or an actual one.

14.0 AOCB

14.1 None tabled.

Date of Next Meeting

Date of Next Meeting will be **Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 6pm**. This meeting will take place at the offices of Jon Frullani Architects, 140 Perth Road, Dundee, DD1 4JW.

Distribution List

R Brunton/ F Canavan /J Frullani/ P. Gunning/ A Macdonald/ D McLachlan/ F Middleton/ I Muir / C Palmer/ J. Reeve/J. Shanks/ / PRIAS/ Secretary RIAS