



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

DRAFT Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3rd July 2019

1. Attendance, Apologies and Introduction

PRESENT:

Prof Mike Cruise (MC), President and Chair;
Dr Nigel Berman (NB), Treasurer;
Prof Lyndsay Fletcher (LF), Senior Secretary
Dr Mandy Bailey (MB), A Secretary;
Prof Mark Lester (ML), G Secretary;
Prof Anton Ziolkowski (AZ), Vice President, G;
Dr Paul Daniels (PAD) Vice President, A;
Dr Megan Argo (MA);
Prof Steve Miller (SM);
Mr Kevin Kilburn (KK);
Dr Clare Watt (CW);
Dr Jane MacArthur (JM)
Prof Lorraine Hanlon (LH); via skype
Dr Claire Foullon (CF);
Dr Sheona Urquhart
Mr Martin Lunn (ML)
Ms Indhu Varatharajan (IV)

APOLOGIES:

Dr Stacey Habergham-Mawson (SHM), Vice President (A);
Prof William Chaplin (WC);
Prof Emma Bunce (EB) President Elect
Dr Mahesh Anand (MA), Vice President, G
Dr Matt Middleton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Philip Diamond (PD), Executive Director;
Dr Robert Massey (RM), Deputy Executive Director;
Ms Siobhan Adeusi (SA), Executive Assistant

The President welcomed the new members of Council:

Professor Emma Bunce as President-Elect
Dr Mahesh Anand as Vice President G
Dr Paul Daniels as Vice President A, and then as councillors:
Dr Matt Middleton
Mr Martin Lunn
Dr Sheona Urquhart
Ms Indhu Varatharajan

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

The President requested that the minutes of the May meeting be withdrawn from the agenda as they had not been reviewed before distribution. They would be brought to the next council meeting for discussion.

MB advised that a member of the A Awards panel has stepped down due to ill health. It was proposed that Ian Howarth replace them. Council approved the new panel member.

3. President's Business

The President undertook the following activities on behalf of the RAS since the last council meeting:

- May 15 - Attendance at the Committee on Diversity in Astronomy and Geophysics (CDAG)
- May 28-30- Attendance at the 100th anniversary celebrations of the 1919 Eclipse Expedition in Principe.
- June 4 - Attendance at Natural History Museum Trustees Dinner. Discussions with Sir John Beddington, previously Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government on Burlington House, and Prof Duncan Wingham, UKRI on Open Access.

4. Treasurer's Business

4.1 Treasurer's Report

The Statement of Accounts was received by Council.

5. Organisation and Structure

5.1 The AGM Minutes were not discussed as they had not been reviewed before distribution.

5.2 The Minutes of the RAS 200 Meeting, March were received by Council. MC remarked that the projects were going well, as a result of SM's wise stewardship.

5.3 The Minutes of the RAS 200 Meeting, May were received by Council.

5.4 The Minutes of the CDAG Committee Meeting, May, were received by Council.

5.5 Council induction/Away Day, (Executive Director)

The Executive Director outlined the plan for the induction of the new Council members, which would also involve MC, NB, RM and Eddie Finch from Buzzacott, our auditors all contributing parts of the programme.

He reported that the away day last year was very useful and an important activity to repeat. This year Publishing, Burlington House and our future financial model will be on the agenda.

ACTION: Office to organise dates, times and papers etc.

5.6 Astronomical Heritage Committee

The Council **approved** David Sellars and Dr Rebekah Higgitt as members of the Astronomical Heritage Committee.

5.7 The 'A' Awards Committee membership

The addition of Prof. Andrew Collier was **approved** by Council. This followed an email from SHM reporting that a new committee member previously **approved**, was not a Fellow and therefore ineligible to stand on the committee.

NOTE: Post Council meeting May 10 2019, Prof. Diana Worrall's membership of the Membership Committee was **approved** by Council offline.

5.8 The Publications Management Committee Meeting Minutes April were received by Council

5.9 Lease update

- Confidential discussion - redacted

5.10 The minutes of the Education and Outreach Committee Meeting May 2019 were received by Council.

5.11 New Code of Conduct issue

The Executive Director gave an overview of a new (to Council) code of conduct matter. MC asked Council to decide whether or not it was matter for them to deal with, or whether it should be dealt with by the complainant's organisation. He noted that these cases are very time consuming but that if the RAS can develop some generic case law it will help.

MC suggested that a best practice guide be produced, for use by Fellows with a complaint against their institution in order to assist them in cases outside the jurisdiction of the RAS. It was **agreed** that Council should not intervene in this new code of conduct case as it was clearly between the complainant on their employer.

ACTION: PD to provide feedback to the complainant.

ACTION: The working group on Code of Conduct issues to consider setting some ground rules concerning the types of cases that Council should deal with. The working group should also consider whether there should be a standing committee on code of conduct violations.

6. OTHER

6.1 The Membership Report was received and all the candidates for fellowship were **approved** by Council

6.1a The proposal for the reinstatement of Benjamin Cowan was received and **approved** by Council

6.2 The Minutes of the A&G meeting of 10th May 2019, were deferred to the next council meeting.

7. AOB

Confidential discussion - redacted

Council rose at 13.20

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Professor Mike Cruise

3 July 2019