

DRAFT Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 July 2023, at NAM, Cardiff and Zoom

1. Attendance and Apologies

PRESENT:

Prof Mike Edmunds (ME); President and Chair
Prof Mike Lockwood (MLO); President Elect
Prof Mark Lester (MLE); Senior Secretary;
Dr Sheona Urquhart (SU); A Secretary
Prof James Hammond (JH) G Secretary
Dr Matt Middleton (MM); Vice President, (A);
Prof Stephen Eales (SE); Vice President (A)
Prof Clare Watt (CW); Vice President (G)
Prof Andrew Curtis (ACU) Vice president G
Dr Jasmine Kaur Sandhu (JKS) (G)
Mrs Patricia Tomkins (PT;) (A)
Dr Olivia Keenan (OK); (A)
Prof Belinda Wilkes (BW)
Dr Joanna Barstow (JB) online
Prof Steve Miller (SM)
Prof Alan Cayless (ACA) A
Dr Imogen Gingell (IG) G
Dr Ashley Spindler (AS) A
Prof Derek Ward Thompson (DWT) A

APOLOGIES:

Prof Caroline Smith (CLS)
Dr Nigel Berman (NB); Treasurer;
Prof Silvia Zane (SZ);

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The President welcomed the new members of Council and asked everybody to introduce themselves.

2. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 The Minutes of Council Meeting of 12 May 2023 were APPROVED subject to the following correction:

Joanne amended to Joanna.

2.2 The Action Status Report was received by Council. PD updated Council on the following:

- HD can remain a member of the membership Committee, but another Council member will need to join in too
- Regarding the IAU's naming conventions, ACTION: RM to draft a letter on behalf of the RAS

3. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS Confidential matter, names redacted from the public minutes

3.1 The President asked Council to declare if they had a conflict in the harassment matter.

JB reported that she has knowledge of the matter, but is not directly involved.

PD reported that he initially received an email from an ex Council member, REDACTED about the fact that the person in this matter continues to be published despite claims of harassment levelled against them. There is a code of ethics that publishers abide by but it is difficult to ban somebody from publishing as this will affect their collaborators.

ME stated that REDACTED is in exactly this situation, but asked if the RAS can do anything about this, for example, by updating the Code of Conduct to prohibit harassment because of guilt by association?

CW asked if the Code needs to be amended to include online bullying.

OK agreed with this suggestion and would welcome a further discussion with regards to publishing.

PD reported that he has contacted the RAS publishers OUP and was waiting to hear back.

ACTION: PD to follow up.

ME asked PD to draft Code amendment and draft reply back to REDACTED, to be sent to Council for review

ACTION: PD to draft a line regarding on-line bullying
PD to draft reply to REDACTED

RM commented that the Guidance to Council will need to be updated for the Charity Commission.

ACTION: RM to do this.

3.2 Council received the briefing note on moving to monthly direct debit payments for subscriptions.

PD relayed some of the Treasurer's concerns to Council.

MLE asked that there is end to end testing by an independent company.

ME asked Council to agree with continuing the current work.

This was APPROVED by Council.

4. TREASURER'S BUSINESS

4.1 The Statement of Accounts was received by Council

ACTION: PD to request Finance Committee minutes

5. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

5.1 The Draft Minutes of the 203rd AGM were received. They were APPROVED by Council.

It was noted that there were few G councillors. It was suggested that the Bye laws be amended to ensure more G councillors were voted on to Council.

ACTION: Officers to have an informal meeting to discuss this.

5.2 The Executive Director updated Council on the following matters:

– **Confidential matter – redacted from the public minutes**

Membership Engagement Survey

PD reported a good early uptake on the survey, and it will help to develop the business plan.

Values Statement

PD reported that this had not get been signed off.

ACTION: PD to circulate it.

JKS suggested that she could send to the geophysics community to help with wider feedback.

5.3 The Education and Outreach Committee minutes were received by Council.

- 5.4 The RAS200 Minutes were received by Council.
- 5.5 The CDAG Minutes were received by Council

6. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 The paper G7 Science and Technology Ministers Meeting was received by Council.
- 6.2 The London Assembly Environment Committee Report on Light Pollution was received by Council
- 6.3 The Astronet Roadmap 2022-2035 was received by Council. RM reported that the matter will be expanded upon at the Community Session to be held after lunch.
- 6.4 The Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Committee: inquiry into Diversity and Inclusion in STEM was received by Council.
- 6.5 The paper Space Sustainability was received by Council.

7. PUBLICATIONS

- 7.1 The PMC Minutes were received by Council.
- 7.2 The Publications Policy updates were received by Council.

JB commented that junior colleagues have stated that often it's not obvious when they go through the licensing process which box they should tick at various points, so they do end up being confronted with a scary-looking contract and then have to back track or sort things out the correct way after the fact.

AS related that as she has experience with AI, she could meet with OUP to discuss this with them.

8 OTHER

- 8.1 Council received the Membership Officer's Reports. All candidates were APPROVED
- 8.2 The Grants Awarded February for 2023 paper was received by Council.
- 8.3 the Awards Panel membership was APROVED by Council.

9. AOB

There was no AOB.

Council rose at 12.55

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5 July 2023

