

Minutes of the 392 Meeting of Council

Monday 17 January 16:00-17:00 GMT

Venue: Virtual meeting held via Zoom

Present:

Gurdial Besra (President, in the Chair)
Robin May (Treasurer)
Mark Harris (General Secretary)
Paul Hoskisson (co-Chair of Building Communities Committee)
Gill Elliott (co-Chair of Building Communities Committee)
Tina Joshi (co-Chair of Impact and Influence Committee)
Chloe James (co-Chair of Impact and Influence Committee)
Sarah Maddocks (co-Chair of Sustainability Committee)
Jose Bengoechea (co-Chair of Sustainability Committee)
Colman O'Cathail (Chair of Early Career Microbiologists' Forum Executive Committee)
Laura Bowater (Elected Member)
Sharon Brookes (Elected Member)
Nigel Brown (Elected Member)
David Clarke (Elected Member)
Andrew Edwards (Elected Member)
Kim Hardie (Elected Member)

In attendance:

Peter Cotgreave (Chief Executive)
Joanne Manning (Chief Operations Officer)
Sarah Buckman (Chief Programmes Officer and Director of Strategy)
Charlotte Mitchell (Associate Director of Marketing, Brand and Communications)
Curtis Asante (Associate Director of Members Programmes)
Rosie Waterton (Executive Secretary)

1.1 Apologies for absence and welcome to new attendees

The President welcomed all new Trustees to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

1.2 Declaration of any new conflicts of interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

1.3 2023 Prize Medal

The General Secretary reminded Council that at its September meeting Council decided to postpone the 2023 Prize Medal ballot following a high number of conflicts of interest with candidates in the then composition of the Board. It was agreed to schedule an extraordinary meeting of Council for

January 2022 when the composition of the Board had altered enough to reduce the conflicts and allow a fairer vote.

He reminded Council that the Prize Award Panel, comprised of members of the Society and not a subset of Council, had considered nominations for the 2023 Prize Medal.

The Chief Executive reminded Council that the ballot would be conducted in rounds, via an anonymous online vote to satisfy the requirement that members of Council who had a conflict with one of the candidates (and so would abstain from the first round) would be able to vote in subsequent rounds if the candidate had been eliminated.

- Andy Edwards declared a conflict of interest.
- Sharon Brookes declared a conflict of interest.
- Colman O’Cathail declared a conflict in interest.

These trustees abstained from the first round of the vote.

Council conducted the vote and Professor Wendy Barclay was declared the 2023 Prize Medal winner with a clear majority of the vote.

Action 01: The Chief Executive to write to Professor Wendy Barclay to invite her to accept the 2023 Prize Medal.

2. AOB

The General Secretary and the Chair of the Scientific Conferences Panel provided an update to Council on Annual Conference 2022 following a meeting held in December to discuss a COVID-19 mitigation framework for Society events, with representatives from the Virus Division and chaired by former Council member Paul Kellam. It was reported that the discussion had been detailed and that it was agreed to continue to plan for an in-person event with a number of extensive mitigations in place including the provision of masks and lateral flow tests for all delegates. Council considered the current lateral flow test supply issues and noted the plans in place to ensure enough stock was acquired. It was noted that the Society had a responsibility to ensure adequate provisions were in place but that ultimately it would be members personal choice to attend an in-person event and personal responsibility to comply with the measures required of them.

Council acknowledged that the decision to proceed and the level of agreed protocols were in the context of current circumstances and this would be continually monitored and readdressed as necessary. It was also noted that measures in Northern Ireland more generally were stricter than in England and the Society would ensure clear messaging to all delegates was circulated in the lead up to the event.

There were no further items of business and the President declared the meeting closed at 16:27.