



**Draft Minutes of the 2020 AGM of the Transport Economists' Group held on 16 December 2020 online**

**Present:** Dick Dunmore (Secretary and online host)  
Gregory Marchant (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)  
Laurie Baker  
Peter Gordon  
Peter Jones  
Iris Ning  
Carol Smales  
Simon Temple

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM held on 27 March 2019**

These were reviewed and no corrections or matters arising identified.

Peter Gordon proposed and Laurie Baker seconded acceptance of the Minutes.

ACCEPTED

**3. Chair's Report for calendar year 2019**

In the absence of Tali Diamant as Chair, the Chair's Report were presented on screen and the meeting invited to read them and comment.

TEG had held the usual nine meetings with an average attendance of 20, with a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 25.

Three copies of the Journal had been published and speakers' presentations had been sent to Members. We continue to make efforts to publicise the group and our events using our website, monthly emails and flyers for each meeting.

There were no questions on the report.

Gregory Marchant endorsed Tali's thanks to Melanie Buchan for her excellent work as our Group Administrator. Dick Dunmore noted that Melanie had dealt with a number of queries relating to bookings for online meetings and reminded those attending that she was not responsible for these arrangements.

Peter Jones proposed and Gregory Marchant seconded acceptance of the Report.

ACCEPTED

#### **4 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for calendar year 2019**

Gregory Marchant presented his Report, which had been circulated to members. Financial performance in the year had a continuation of previous years, with a surplus of around £1,000 and a balance of over £23,000 at year end.

Our auditor, Stephen Bennett, had signed off the accounts.

Gregory also provided a verbal update on developments during 2020, during which the activities of the Group had been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Membership had held up, although some organisations had cut back on renewing subscriptions for their staff.

Costs during 2020 would be lower than in previous years as one fewer copy of the Journal would be printed, reflecting the lack of meetings, and associated reports, from March to June inclusive. A number of improvements had also been made by the TEG "back office". We had changed our suppliers of internet services, reducing costs by paying in advance for a number of years, and rebuilt the website using a more modern, and widely used, tool. We had also made changes to reduce the cost of accepting subscription payments online.

Peter Jones ask how different the accounts would be in 2020. Gregory said that a reduction of around £300 in subscriptions income would be broadly offset by a reduction of £300 in printing costs. Looking forward, a decision had been taken that all members who had renewed for 2020 would receive a free extension of their membership to the end of 2021, so there will be no requests for subscriptions in January 2021.

Peter Jones proposed and Peter Gordon seconded acceptance of the Report and Accounts.

ACCEPTED

## **5 Appointment of auditors**

Gregory reported that Stephen Bennett had confirmed that he was willing to continue as auditor for one final, auditing the accounts of calendar year 2020 for the AGM expected to be held in March 2021, after which the Group would seek a new auditor. The meeting thanked him for his work.

Peter Gordon proposed and Carol Smales seconded his reappointment.

ACCEPTED

## **6 Election of the Committee for 2020-2021**

Dick Dunmore, Peter Gordon, Gregory Marchant, Iris Ning and Carol Smales confirmed that they were willing to stand for the Committee for the remainder of 2020-2021. Peter Jones thanked the Committee for their work. The Committee offering itself for re-election or election therefore consisted of:

Laurie Baker proposed and Peter Jones seconded the election or re-election of these individuals.

ACCEPTED

For the record, the de facto Committee for the remainder of 2020-2021 is as shown below.

Tali Diamant	Dick Dunmore	Peter Gordon
Gregory Marchant	Iris Ning	Adriana Moreno Pelayo
Carol Smales	Gerard Whelan	Tom Worsley

## **7 Any other business**

Peter Jones asked about membership, and whether a major recruitment drive would be needed during 2021. Gregory said that the online presence had created interest, and Dick presented a slide showing how attendance had broadly doubled from an average of 20 at physical meetings during 2019 to around 40 for online meetings in autumn 2020. Not all attendees were Members: some were members of ICEA, to whom the Group's activities are marketed; some were Arup staff; and some might be students who were potential future members. Unlike with physical meetings, it

was not possible to attend without being sent, or forwarded, the link. Technologies exist to restrict attendance to invitees, or to charge for a meeting, but these were not considered necessary. Dick pointed out that, with current levels of surplus, there was no need for the Group to derive any revenue from meeting attendance. Gregory pointed out that only Members receive the speaker slides and the Journal, which many considered to be good value and justify the membership fee, although it was not possible to prevent anyone online from recording the meeting or capturing images of the slides.

Peter Burgess had suggested that mixing physical and online meetings in future would encourage membership and attendance outside London, and potentially anywhere in the world. Iris said that Teams worked well as a medium and noted that we had already had attendees from Southampton, Leeds and Spain. A downside of online meetings was the limited ability to socialise or network. Laurie thought online meetings worked well and it would be good if physical meetings could be broadcast: those not present would still be part of the things. Simon Temple agreed: he had been a member since 1984 but rarely been able to attend meetings. Peter Jones said that TPS broadcasts physical meetings. In principle, physical meetings could be broadcast: the result might be best if those online could see the screen and the speaker used a microphone, if technology permitted.

Peter Jones also pointed out the potential to invite remote speakers, or to have two or more in different locations. Gregory noted that some members were in Australasia, although the current meeting timing would not work well there.

Dick asked whether it made sense to retain a regular meeting cycle. Gregory and Laurie favoured a predictable cycle. Peter Jones added that a midweek timing was likely to be most convenient.

Peter Jones suggested that the Group should consider offering an essay prize. The Committee members present said that a proposal to do so was already well-advanced, with the aim that students would be invited to submit essays before they were fully engaged in exams in summer 2021.

The Committee members present noted the views of the meeting on these matters.

There being no further business, the host closed the meeting at 6:40pm.