



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE
OF AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS HELD ON MONDAY 28th MARCH 2022 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

PRESENT: Tony Kernon (Chairman)(TK), David Meredith (Vice-Chairman) (DM), Mike Greetham (CEO)(MG); George Cook (Chairman of Entrance & Disciplinary Committee) (GC), Simon Britton (SB), Victoria Bywater (Minutes, Administration) and 21 members.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Administration confirmed apologies had been received from 5 members.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 28th June 2021- Appendix A

The President confirmed minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all members. The minutes were proposed as a true record by James Miles-Hobbs, seconded by Ruth Farrell and were approved unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chairman confirmed that no member wished to raise any matters relating to the minutes of the AGM held on the 28th June 2021.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN, BIAC - Appendix B

The Chairman confirmed a report had been circulated to all members (Appendix A).

In addition to the report, the Chairman thanked members, the Council and the Administration for their support during his chairmanship.

The Chairman noted that membership numbers had increased, in part due to the success of Foundation courses. He noted the continued popularity of on-line training and the Member Forums and workshops. He expressed the view that with three main conferences (rural planning, business management and Welsh) there was a need to continue on-line shorter CPD courses. The Chairman requested suggestions for Member Forum sessions and Member Workshops for the autumn/ winter programme 2022/ 2023.

The Chairman reported that SB would represent BIAC at the stakeholder group of TIAH and that SB would report to members on progress.

George Cook was thanked for his work on the CPD review which would be covered in a later agenda item.

The Chairman updated the meeting that expenditure had been made during the year on PR to support the Rural Planning Conference where lessons had been learnt for the future.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all speakers and chairpersons who had supported the Member Forum sessions, Member Workshops and BIAC Events generally in the last two years.



James Miles-Hobbs and Ros Gough noted the relevance and professionalism of the Member Forum and Member Workshop events.

5. **REPORT OF THE CEO - Appendix C**

MG confirmed a report had been circulated to all members (Appendix C).

In addition to the report the CEO offered the following further updates;

BIAC is in a strong financial position which should be utilised to benefit members going forward.

The CEO confirmed he has attended the TIAC working group meetings and at Westminster events representing BIAC, which assist in raising profile for BIAC whilst noting BIAC is not a lobbying organisation

The CEO updated the meeting that the Business Management Conference and Foundation 1 course will follow on the 29th, 30th & 31st March with the BIAC Foundation 2 course taking place in September 2022.

No questions were raised.

6. **REPORT OF THE ENTRANCE AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE - Appendix D**

GC confirmed a report had been circulated to all members (Appendix D)

GC further updated the meeting that the ongoing review of the current processes for interviews and criteria for assessment including 1x report and the field of expertise now forming part of the interview process.

GC thanked SB and Ros Gough for their ongoing support with regard to membership.

GC updated the meeting that a review of the CPD requirements for members had been undertaken with a view to bring BIAC in line with other professional membership organisations whilst focussing on quality. GC suggested this proposal is back-dated to 1st January 2022.

After discussion, the proposal was proposed by Tom Warren and seconded to Wendy Jenkins.

7. **TREASURERS REPORT (Appendix E) AND ADOPTION OF THE 2021 ACCOUNTS (Appendix F)**

VB confirmed a report from the Treasurer (Appendix E) and the draft 2021 annual accounts had been circulated to all members (Appendix F).

On behalf of our Treasurer, VB confirmed that Adrian Cannon wished to stand down as Treasurer of BIAC by the next AGM.

No questions were raised.

8. **PROPOSAL FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR JANUARY 1st 2023**

The Chairman confirmed that subscriptions remain unchanged for 2023.



9. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

TK confirmed that Councils recommendation for nomination of Chairman is Simon Britton. With all in attendance in favour, SB was duly elected Chairman of BIAC.

11. ELECTION OF TREASURER

The Chairman confirmed that Councils recommendation for nomination of Treasurer is Adrian Cannon. With all in attendance in favour, Adrian Cannon was duly elected Chairman of BIAC.

12. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

TK reported that Roger Cozens, James Miles-Hobbs and George Cook are standing down by rotation.

TK thanked Roger Cozens, James Miles-Hobbs and George Cook for their contribution to Council.

TK proposed the election of Council enbloc, with all in attendance in favour, Council was duly re-elected.

TK proposed the co-option of George Cook to Council to continue the work on the CPD review, David Meredith to Council to continue to represent BIAC and Peter Walker to continue to represent BIAC seconded by Wendy Jenkins, all agreed.

13. STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

MG updated the meeting that 10 years has passed since the last strategy review of BIAC and proposed a strategy review to be undertaken by a Strategy Sub-Committee.

With all in attendance in favour, it was agreed that Council would elect suitable representatives from within Council, the wider membership and industry to join the sub-committee with a view to reporting at the next AGM.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sponsorship of IFMA Attendance

Ros Gough gave an introduction to the IFMA Congress due to be held in 2022 in Copenhagen.

After discussion and input from members, it was agreed that a decision on sponsorship would be decided by the Executive Committee.

David Meredith offered a vote of thanks on behalf of all members to Tony Kernon for his chairmanship of BIAC over the last two years and in particular for his calm, dry humour.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 10.22am