Engineering Scotland AGM

Wednesday 7th May 2014, 5.30 for 6pm IET Teacher Building, Glasgow

Minutes (Draft)

Present: Iain White, Gill Gray, Laurie Borthwick, David Fraser, Andrew Gilchrist, Paul Goldfinch,

Robin Lee, John Bryden (APM), Tom McBrearty (EKGTA), Patrick Farrell, Bob Garrow

Apologies: Lynn Dow (ICE), George Adams (PET Aberdeen)

1. Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2013 and adjourned to 24th June 2013 were accepted as a true record, proposed by GG and seconded by TMcB. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. President's Report

IW reported that it had been a very active year with a strong committee which he thanked for its support and work done. A very successful Practical Lecture had been held in the spring.

The Chairman's Award had not been made in this particular year.

Approaches had been received from PET North in Aberdeen, specifically from George Adams, enquiring as to whether Engineering Scotland would be interested in taking over its activity in Aberdeen. The President explained that there was logic in this because The Federation of Engineering Societies of Glasgow had taken over PET in Edinburgh when the latter ceased operating. (That led to renaming as Engineering Scotland.) Representatives from Aberdeen had been invited to the AGM as a courtesy. In practice, dialogue will be developed over coming months.

A proposal had been made to introduce a third event into the calendar and this was in hand for the autumn of the current year, led by the Vice President.

The President also mentioned that the Honorary Secretary had been leading an initiative to refresh Engineering Scotland's website and that this was coming to fruition.

3. Vice President's Report

The Vice President reported that the events held by Engineering Scotland had been well-attended and well-received. Efforts had been made to improve the promotion of these events and that had been successful. As the President had already mentioned, a new event was planned for the autumn. Prior to that, the forthcoming Road Ahead Lecture with Tom Devine was looking to be well-attended.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that his focus in the year had been strengthening administrative arrangements. This remained a work in progress. However, significant steps had been made to evolve the website to something more suited to current needs (most especially ease of use for loading of member organisation's events) and a demonstration of the new website (in test form) was scheduled after the formalities of the AGM. (Post meeting note: The demonstration duly took place and met with a favourable reception from those present.)

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a report on the financial year to June 2013, which included the accounts for that year. He explained that the format of these accounts had been adjusted to a form that was

compatible with charitable status, that being considered an appropriate guide. The Treasurer clarified that the financial year end is 30 June.

The accounts were received and adopted by the meeting.

The Treasurer paid tribute to Tim West's work over the years on the accounts. He was taking that work and building on it.

6. Development of Engineering Scotland Constitution and Status

The President explained to the meeting that the Committee proposed that Engineering Scotland take steps to become a charity. The Treasurer set out the case as follows: The organisation's purpose is education of engineers and the public, the member engineering institutions are mostly charities themselves, and operation as a charity requires a rigour which is felt to be helpful.

The Treasurer presented a note on the proposals for discussion. Two main items require attention to support an application to register as a charity: The format of the accounts (noted earlier) and the form of the constitution. Specifically, some sections of the constitution require amendment and the Treasurer is in the process of developing a new draft constitution to be proposed for adoption at a general meeting.

The Treasurer asked for comments on the proposal at the meeting or later. Various points of clarification were discussed, from which key items are as follows: There are no significant cost implications of becoming a charity, and the management committee would become the board of trustees.

The President asked for the meeting's support in principle for the proposal to take steps to become a charity. (The Treasurer's paper did not form part of the proposal at this stage.) This was approved unanimously.

It was also proposed that the AGM be held in September (or thereby) each year in order to tie in more suitably with the financial year end of 30 June. This year (2014) only, it was proposed that there will be an EGM in September or October to approve the accounts to June 2014 and consider a new constitution pursuant to becoming a charity. These motions were approved unanimously.

7. Appointment of Committee 2014-15

It was proposed that members and officers be re-elected as follows:-

Iain WhitePresidentGill GrayVice PresidentDavid FraserHonorary SecretaryPaul GoldfinchHonorary Treasurer

Andrew Gilchrist Member Laurie Borthwick Member

All present voted in favour (with those named above abstaining).

John Wilcox, who was still technically on the committee immediately prior to the AGM had not sought reelection. The President noted that John Wilcox had done a sterling job in the past and expressed his thanks.

The President invited others present to indicate their willingness to serve on the committee if they wished. Robin Lee was duly proposed, seconded and unanimously elected, as, in her absence, was Lynn Dow (representing ICE), having previously consented.

The President indicated that a place on the committee was being reserved for potential Aberdeen representatives arising from conversations with George Adams. IW sought and received the meeting's approval to appoint a member or members in that connection in due course.

8. AoB

None.

9. Date of Next General Meeting

Provisionally, the date of the EGM was set for Wednesday 8th October 2014 and that of the AGM following for Wednesday 7th October 2015, both at the Teacher Building, subject to availability.

Thanks to the IET for hosting this year's AGM.

PROVISIONAL DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 2014 Venue: IET Teacher Building, Glasgow