



Minutes of the 2023 AGM of the Transport Economists' Group held on 22 March 2023 online

Present: Tali Diamant (Chair)
Dick Dunmore (Secretary)
Gregory Marchant (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)
Iris Ning (Online host)
Adriana Moreno Pelayo
Carol Smales
Julian Ware (for items 4 and 5)

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Peter Gordon.

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM held on 23 March 2022 online

These were reviewed and no corrections or matters arising identified.

Gregory Marchant proposed and Tali Diamant seconded acceptance of the Minutes.

ACCEPTED

3. Chair's Report for calendar year 2022

Tali Diamant presented her Chair's Report. She thanked the Members and other speakers for the range of topics on which they had spoken, and noted that the activities of the Group had settled down again after the pandemic.

The membership base remained healthy and members outside London appreciated the range of meetings available online. Steps were being taken, however, to expand the social aspects of the Group.

There were no questions on the report.

Dick Dunmore proposed and Gregory Marchant seconded acceptance of the Report.

ACCEPTED

4 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for calendar year 2022

Gregory Marchant presented his Report.

The Group had returned to surplus after a deficit in 2021 resulting from the extension of 2020 subscriptions to reflect the long pause in the meeting programme. The accumulated surpluses meant that the Group remained very financially secure and there was no need to raise subscription rates above current levels.

Dick Dunmore asked whether there were plans to change the mechanisms for collecting subscriptions. Gregory said that, of around a hundred members who had already renewed for 2023, only two had paid by cheque, with the rest paying by transfer or debit/credit card. He was examining the scope to activate online payment, although this presented some technical challenges.

Dick Dunmore proposed and Carol Smales seconded acceptance of the Report.

ACCEPTED

Dick Dunmore proposed and Tali Diamant seconded acceptance of the Accounts.

ACCEPTED

5 Appointment of auditors

Julian Ware had audited the accounts for 2022, and he agreed to act as auditor for 2023.

Gregory Marchant proposed and Tali Diamant seconded acceptance of appointment of Julian Ware as auditor for 2023.

ACCEPTED

6 Election of the Committee for 2023-2024

The existing Committee confirmed that they were willing to stand for the Committee for 2023-2024, except for Iris Ning and Carol Smales. The Committee offering itself for re-election therefore consisted of:

- Tali Diamant
- Dick Dunmore
- Peter Gordon
- Gregory Marchant
- Adriana Moreno Pelayo

No candidate objected to any other candidate, so Carol Smales proposed the re-election of these Committee members en bloc.

ACCEPTED

For the record, the Committee for 2023-2024 is as shown below.

Tali
Diamant

Dick
Dunmore

Peter
Gordon

Gregory
Marchant

Adriana
Moreno Pelayo

7 Any other business

The AGM noted that the Group's costs are dominated by the printing of the Journal. Was there scope for moving to a PDF version on either cost or environmental grounds?

It was noted that, while printing remains the main expense, this was lower than the potential costs of renting rooms for face-to-face meetings which had historically formed part of the cost base. Because of this, there was no need to reduce costs, and reduction or elimination of printing costs would raise the perennial issue of ever more increasing surpluses.

At present, a benefit of membership is immediate access to a printed Journal, with PDFs only available after a year's delay. A risk of providing PDFs is that these could be circulated immediately, removing the main clear benefit of membership.

In addition, if some members requested printed Journals and others accepted PDFs, there would be a practical issue of creating and maintaining distinct circulation lists with postal and email addresses respectively.

It was agreed that one practical measure would be to provide the annual list of members in PDF form only, which would save some printing costs but would probably have no effect on postage costs as the list was normally posted with a Journal. The Committee would consider this at the next meeting.

ACCEPTED

There being no further business, the host closed the meeting at 5:35pm.