



Draft Minutes of the 2024 AGM of the Transport Economists' Group held on 27 March 2024 online

Present: Tali Diamant (Chair)
Gregory Marchant (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)
Dick Dunmore (Secretary)
John Collins (Online host)
Laurie Baker
Tim Elliott
Peter Gordon
John Preston
Sally Scarlett
Julian Ware
Tom Worsley

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 22 March 2023 online

These were reviewed and no corrections or matters arising identified.

Laurie Baker proposed and Tali Diamant seconded acceptance of the Minutes.

ACCEPTED

3. Chair's Report for calendar year 2023

Tali Diamant presented her Chair's Report.

She noted the wide range of topics discussed during 2023 including the new mode of e-scooters and the social issue of digital exclusion, as well as many aspects of transport appraisal.

The activities of the Group had settled down again after the pandemic. The Group had offered meetings not only online,

enabling a worldwide attendance, but also face-to-face, and had trialled a hybrid format. She noted that the hybrid format did not work well, partly because of the need to ensure that all speakers waited to use a microphone.

She thanked the Members and other speakers for the range of topics on which they had spoken.

Three editions of the TEG Journal, The Transport Economist, had been published, Volume 50 – Number 1 to 3.

The group remained in a strong financial position and the Committee had been joined by two new members, John Collins and Iven Stead.

There were no questions on the report.

Dick Dunmore proposed and Julian Ware seconded acceptance of the Report.

ACCEPTED

4 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for calendar year 2023

Gregory Marchant presented his Report.

One large than usual item had been renewal of our website hosting contract for three years.

The Group had made a slightly increased surplus during 2023 compared to 2022. The accumulated surpluses meant that the Group remained very financially resilient.

Following queries in previous years, the presentation of the accounts had been changed to show how pre-paid subscriptions for 2024, and creditors, provisions and cheques uncashed at year end, reduce the net cash available.

He thanked those Members who had paid their subscriptions with credit cards via the website. While this had taken effort to arrange, it was the cheapest way of processing credit card payments.

Dick Dunmore proposed and Laurie Baker seconded acceptance of the Report and Accounts.

ACCEPTED

5 Appointment of auditors

Julian Ware had audited the accounts for 2023, and he agreed to act as auditor for 2024.

Gregory Marchant proposed and Tali Diamant seconded acceptance of appointment of Julian Ware as auditor for 2024.

ACCEPTED

6 Election of the Committee for 2024-2025

The existing Committee had confirmed that they were willing to stand for the Committee for 2024-2025.

A vote excluding the candidates re-elected the Committee unopposed, and the Committee for 2024-2025 is as shown below.

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| John Collins | Tali Diamant | Dick Dunmore | Peter Gordon |
| Gregory Marchant | Adriana Moreno Pelayo | Iven Stead | |

7 Discussion: offering printed versions of the TEG Journal

Members were invited to comment on whether a printed version of the TEG Journal should be withdrawn on environmental and/or economic grounds.

John Preston noted that the costs of the Journal were bearable, although the environmental issue remained. He preferred to continue to receive and read a hard copy version. Julian Ware said that he found hard copy useful and read it while travelling. Sally Scarlett said that she liked a printed copy and was not sure that she would read an online version. Tim Elliott agreed that a paper Journal is easier to read: paper is artefact whereas electronic documents seem ephemeral. Laurie Baker and Peter Gordon agreed that many people like to read hard copy.

Dick Dunmore noted that 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 summary, the collective view of those present was that the printed version of the TEG Journal should continue.

8 Any other business

John Preston congratulated the Committee on a successful year. Providing meetings online made it easier for those outside London to attend, but he noted that it was good to hold at least some face-to-face meetings. Dick Dunmore noted that, now that online meetings have become common practice, there was a tension between the ability to attend them from anywhere in the world and the ability to network and socialise at face-to-face meetings which were only accessible to some Members.

John Preston said that the International Transportation Economics Association (ITEA) would be holding its annual conference in Leeds on 26-28 June 2024. He and Tom Worsley offered to help publicise TEG at the conference.

There being no further business, the host closed the meeting at 6:05pm.