

Minutes of a Meeting of the IPlantE & Operations Professional Sector Council
Wednesday 19 January at 1100
Via Zoom

Present: Ian Jackson (Chair)
Alan Fitzpatrick
Tom Shelley
Prof Lock
Steven Rees
Mark Hansford

In Attendance: Daniel Moir

Apologies: Tony Robinson
Matt Jenkinson
Steve Tennison
Eugene Kobani
Thomas Baker

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the group and acknowledged the apologies. The Council were informed that Steve Burnage, Chair of the Environmental Sector, was in attendance as an observer.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Agreed and adopted.

3. Matters arising

All matters arising were covered in the agenda items below.

4. Appointment of IPlantE & Operations Professional Sector Council Vice Chair

There was a request for volunteers for the position of Vice Chair of the IPlantE & Operations Professional Sector. Steve Rees was nominated and removed from the meeting during the vote. It was unanimously agreed that Steve Rees should take the position of Vice Chair.

Action – D Moir

5. Head Office update

Daniel Moir gave an update on staffing. The Council were informed that the roles of Events Co-ordinator, Membership Co-ordinator and Office Administrator were now filled. Whilst the majority of staff are currently still working from home it is anticipated that staff will begin to return to the office in mid-February with a hybrid approach adopted. Employees encouraged to attend the office a minimum of twice a week.

The group were updated on the current membership and registrations numbers. It was agreed the numbers for the Society would be recorded in February, June, September and December to ensure like for like comparisons.

6. Trustee Board update

The Council were given an update on Board initiatives and current focus. Discussions are taking place on a number of potential changes in line with the statement given by the President, Adam Fraser Hitchen, at the last meeting. The Sector first approach was emphasised which will devolve the budget to respective Professional Sector Councils and give more autonomy to each.

Work is ongoing with regards to the Memorandum and Articles of Association and supporting documents in order to update them and bring them in line with current procedures.

7. Membership & Professional Standards Committee update

An update was given on the processes and procedures of the Membership & Professional Standards Committee. The Council were informed on the work of this Committee to update the Society's approach in line with the Engineering Councils updated UK specification.

The Society will be going through its license review for both the Engineering Council (EngC) and Society for the Environment (SocEnv). This will be the focus of the Professional Standards team for the foreseeable future and a request will be going out to appropriate volunteers for support. The Council emphasised the importance of registration and that it is a main driver for membership, especially in Hong Kong, and therefore must be made a priority. The Chair offered the Councils full support in ensuring the process is successful and is happy for email requests to be sent to the group rather than waiting for the next meeting.

Action - R. Bates

8. The IPlantE & Operations Professional Sector Council's 2022 objectives

The Chair offered some background on the reasons two sectors report in to one Council and the synergies this allows.

A document was circulated prior to the meeting for review and feedback on objectives for this Council in 2022, this included:

- Public benefit
- Member benefit
- Raising the profile of plant and operations engineering both in the UK and internationally
- Greater Membership diversity
- Investing in volunteers
- Professional Sector development
- Growth in membership

The details were discussed, and document amended accordingly. It was agreed that the key for the success of this institution is to provide ongoing development of the standards, competences and technical knowledge of our members to be better professional engineers and the areas listed above will allow for this to happen.

The amended document was unanimously adopted by the Council.

9. IPlantE & Operations Professional Sector Council web pages

A document was circulated prior to the meeting for review and feedback.

The content was discussed and amendments made to the document. The Council agreed that the information contained was correct however needed to be tailored to an external audience and made more accessible. It was agreed that the document would now be sent to the Society's marketing team for review and update before being returned to this Councils working group. It was acknowledged that this would be a development process between the marketing team and the working group in order to achieve the right balance of promotion and content.

Action - K Holmes

10. Environmental Professional Sector

As part of the sector first approach from 2023 the budget will be devolved to allow Professional Sector Councils more autonomy and greater agility in meeting its members needs.

It was suggested that due to the synergies between this sector and the Environmental sector joint ventures should be explored and collaboration considered at every opportunity. This included the Environmental professional sector joining the IPlantE and Ops PSC while Ops and Environmental membership grow to sufficient size to have individual PSCs with Trustee Board representation. It would also help the Environmental professional sector gain access to a larger budget.

A standing invite was offered to the Chair of the Environmental sector or a nominated representative as an observer to future meetings to ensure a joined up approach and the opportunity for the Environmental sectors feedback to be represented on the Trusteed Board through this Council. The Chair agreed to write a paper for consideration by the Trustee Board.

Action - Chair

11. Publicity drive for younger people

A request for publicity material was made for promotion at a number of upcoming events being attended by Council members. It was agreed work to target the Scout and Guides groups was to be put on hold whilst the Council focus on upcoming events and developing material aimed at the influencers around young people. after a discussion on potential content Tom Shelley agreed create a first draft that will be developed in to print material by the marketing team.

Action – T Shelley & K Holmes

12. University of Hertfordshire Plant Engineering course

Daniel Moir agreed to contact Thomas Baker to progress efforts in linking the University of Hertfordshire's Plant Engineering course to membership.

Action – D Moir

13. Military

Daniel Moir agreed to contact Chip Tennison to progress efforts in exploring opportunities of creating leadership and managerial courses.

Action – D Moir

A question was asked on the relationship with RAF Cosford. The pandemic has stopped the intake of Saudi members passing through Cosford but it is expected to restart later this year.

14. Growing the Ops Professional sector

A discussion took place on potential opportunities for bringing in new members to the Operations sector. It was agreed that the obvious source for new members is BAE Systems. Stakeholders at BAE had previously indicated that the creation of this sector would facilitate a relationship and be attractive to its engineering workforce. It was requested that any contacts be used to progress this initiative.

Action – D Moir

15. Branding

The Chair led a discussion on the accepted definition of engineer and engineering and the position of the IPlantE, it was felt that the sector should continue to lead any materials but with strong reference to engineering. The Chair requested that there is uniformity in approach when referencing this Council in documentation, correspondence and promotion. Depending on the audience either IPlantE & Ops or IPlantE & Operations are acceptable.

Action – K Holmes

16. AOB

Alan Fitzpatrick highlighted the next meeting is scheduled in June and one should be scheduled for April.

Action - D Moir

The Chair thanked the group for attending and closed the meeting.

The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 13 April starting at 09.30 UK time via Zoom