



GLASGOW INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO. 04 OF SESSION 2010/11
HELD AT THE OFFICES OF GLASGOW CITY HERITAGE TRUST, 54
BELL STREET, GLASGOW G1 1LQ
ON THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2011 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT

President Fiona J Sinclair (Chair), Martin McKay (Past President), Jon-Marc Creaney, Sandy McMillan, Ian Hamilton, John Dey, John Devlin, Martin Docherty, Callum Houston, Kerry Doyle, Gordon Gibbons, Stuart Gray, David Ross, Victoria Batters, Martin James Flett (Student Representative), Tom Warren (Student Representative), Gordon Reid (Honorary Treasurer) and Elizabeth Reid (Honorary Secretary).

1.0 APOLOGIES

1.1 Matt Bridgestock, Jim Cuthbertson, Michael Jarvis and Steven Innes.

2.0 PREVIOUS MINUTE

2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting on 21 October 2010 were agreed.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 (3.3) The President advised that the St Mungo Prize had been awarded to Professor Sir John Arbuthnott, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde.

3.2 (3.4) The President advised that although ARB no longer requires proof of Professional Indemnity Insurance, RIAS does.

3.3 (4.2) Angus Kerr did give a talk about the work of the ABS at the Annual Members' Dinner.

3.4 (5.3.4) The President has raised the issue of chapter diary clashes at RIAS Council.

3.5 (7.1.1) The President confirmed that Andrew McConnell was the GIA volunteer representative on the Glasgow Building Preservation Trust.

4.0 HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- 4.1 The Honorary Treasurer talked Council through the main items of income and expenditure between October and January. These included the RIAS 4th Quarter Grant, Student Awards, GIA Awards, and Members' Dinner.
- 4.2 The Honorary Treasurer confirmed that the raffle and donations from the Annual Members' Dinner had raise £1,060 for the Architects Benevolent Society. A cheque for this amount had been sent to the ABS and a letter of thanks received and circulated to Council. The ABS had also sent a DVD about their work to the Honorary Treasurer which is available to members of Council should they wish to view it.
- 4.3 The Honorary Treasurer confirmed that in accordance with Council instructions £26,500 of GIA reserve monies had been reinvested through stockbrokers Speirs and Jeffrey.
- 4.4 Transfer of funds from the Scottish Architectural Education Trust is still outstanding. The Honorary Treasurer was advised to contact Angus Kerr.
- 4.5 The Honorary Treasurer advised that the books were due to be audited by Robb Ferguson. He asked Council members to submit requests for expenses and other expenditure to him as soon as possible as he will be unable to provide cheques whilst the books are away for audit.
- 4.6 Martin McKay raised the fact that the annual dinner and awards had again made a loss of around £1,000. Council discussed how to make the dinner profitable or at least break even. Council agreed that sponsorship was the key to this.
- 4.7 The President advised that the Aberdeen Chapter had suggested at the last RIAS Council Meeting that local chapters did not call on their quarterly grant in order to help RIAS financially for a period. Martin McKay felt that this was not an option for GIA: he had in fact considered that when the grant was negotiated that it was not enough and if anything should increase.
- 4.8 The President advised that it had been suggested that GIA could take an advertisement in RIAS "Quarterly" as the magazine was under financial pressure. Sandy McMillan expressed the view that the magazine was lacking in content and as such too big. Martin McKay advised that it was envisaged the magazine would be self financing to sustain the four issues a year, however it has encountered mailing list issues and the cost of the actual mailing is significant. Sandy McMillan suggested that RIAS should look to other consultants particularly those with global reach for sponsorship.

- 4.9 Martin Flett raise the possibility of GIA sponsoring an advertisement in “MacMag”, which is the student magazine of the Mackintosh School of Architecture. Council agreed to the advertisement with the proviso that a similar advertisement be placed in whatever is the equivalent magazine for the Strathclyde School of Architecture (“Paperspace”).

ACTION: Honorary Treasurer to contact Angus Kerr regarding the Scottish Architectural Education Trust.

ACTION: Callum Houston to pursue sponsorship options for the Members’ Dinner.

ACTION: Tom Warren to find out about the Strathclyde School of Architecture Magazine with a view to the provision of sponsorship.

5.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Architecture, People and Places

- 5.1.1 David Ross advised that the committee had met with the chairperson of the Kilgreggan Community Council, Murdo MacDonald. David advised Council that Kilgreggan Community Council appeared to be an ambitious council which had already refurbished the local halls and had been involved in plans for a community wind farm. The AP&P Committee had developed a paper for presentation to the Community Council at a meeting in late December however the meeting did not take place due to the severe weather.

- 5.1.2 David Ross advised that the committee felt that the brief for the Kilgreggan competition would have to be broader than that for the QP Arena competition because of the scale and uniqueness of the site. The committee felt that this would allow for reference to other rural communities with similar issues and lectures could be run on rural community issues. The competition would include successful elements of the QPA area competition including the set up of a dedicated website, a small charge for entries and a public access workshop.

- 5.1.3 David Ross advised that the committee had hoped to have the finalists present their proposals at the GIA AGM in April and announce the winners on the night. Martin McKay suggested that April for the final deadline might be too tight as the brief is likely to be more complex than QPA and difficult to organise in a similar timeframe.

- 5.1.4 David Ross asked that Council approve a budget of £1,000 which the Community Council will be asked to match to allow the committee to progress the competition with them. Council approved this as it was a similar level of expenditure to that for last year’s competition.

- 5.1.5 Gordon Reid asked if the competition is likely to lead to work for the wining practice. Martin McKay advised that it will be made clear that the proposal is the end.

5.1.6 The President expressed the view that good progress had been made and that Kilgreggan is an interesting area due to its linear nature and ease of access by water. Council discussed architects who have worked or live in the local area whose knowledge may be useful for the committee. These included Bruce Jamieson of Puregreenspace, Gareth Hoskins Architects and Cameron Webster Architects.

ACTION: AP&P Committee to meet with Kilgreggan Community Council to progress.

5.2 Communications

5.2.1 Callum Houston advised that the major focus for the Communications Committee most recently had been the Annual Members' Dinner.

5.2.2 Callum Houston reported that he had received some comments on the draft website brief which he had issued to Council for comment. The comments had been incorporated into the document which will be issued to those website providers previously identified. Callum asked Council members if anyone had any other suppliers that they wished to be included that they let him know as soon as possible.

5.2.3 The President confirmed that the RIAS website had been delayed and the GIA should proceed rather than waiting to tag onto the RIAS development. Callum Houston reminded Council that the website was not undergoing a re-branding, rather the proposal is to update, making it look good as well as being easy to use and maintain.

5.2.4 Council discussed the diary clashes that had occurred around the Student Awards and the Annual Members' Dinner. In the case of the dinner it was considered that the clash was not around attendance but sponsorship and possibly top table guests. The President advised that she will check with the other Chapters over the date of the Dinners. Council agreed that the GIA Dinner should be held on the second Friday of November and that Oran Mor should once again be the venue.

5.2.5 Callum Houston asked why the GIA Design Awards did not appear to be synchronised with the RIAS Doolan Awards for Architecture. Martin McKay advised that was not always possible to align the awards and the President advised that the GIA Awards do not always create a Supreme Award winner in any event.

5.2.6 Callum Houston mentioned Glasgow's Doors Open Day and reminded Council that attendance had been minimal at the event organised by GIA and wondered what the GIA involvement was likely to be this year. The President advised that as this event is planned by Glasgow Building Preservation Trust it is difficult to determine at this stage what the GIA involvement is likely to be.

ACTION: Communications Committee to progress website proposals with possible suppliers.

ACTION: Callum Houston to book Oran Mor for the 2011 Annual Members' Dinner.

ACTION: The President to check the dates that other Chapters are organising dinners and also dates of planned student awards.

5.3 Education

5.3.1 Jon-Marc Creaney updated Council on the points that had been discussed at the RIAS Education Committee on 11 November 2010. The main points which were reported were that the proposals for revising the status of funding for architectural education had been shelved, the RIAS President was planning visits to the schools to coincide with the Scottish Design Tutor Award, APEAS numbers were down significantly for 2010/11 and a leaflet for issue to high schools called "Pathway to the Profession" is being finalised.

5.3.2 Jon-Marc Creaney advised that the Education Committee would be working on the finalised format and terms and conditions for the Alexander Thomson Scholarship. The Scholarship competition will be run through its own website similar to the Queens Park Competition which will include an archive of the previous winning ideas. It is hoped to launch the Scholarship Competition to coincide with the next edition of the RIAS Quarterly. The President suggested that it would be helpful if both student representative members of Council could input to the set up and promotion of the Scholarship.

5.3.3 Sandy McMillan asked the student representatives about internal communication at both schools which could be used to raise awareness of the scholarship. It was confirmed that both schools use e-mail and each school has an individual responsible for circulating information around the student population; at Strathclyde the person is Ellen Thomson and at Glasgow it is Kate Stewart.

ACTION: Education Committee to progress the set up of the Alexander Thomson Scholarship.

ACTION: Tom Warren and Martin Flett to provide input to how best to promote the Scholarship in their respective schools.

5.4 Practice/CPD

5.4.1 Sandy McMillan reported that there had been no further meetings of the Practice/CPD Committee since the previous meeting which took place on 22 September 2010.

5.4.2 Sandy McMillan confirmed that since the last Council Meeting there had been two CPD events. The first of these was RMJM's Athletes Village presentation and the second was a joint event with Women in Property which was a panel discussion on Building Glasgow's Future. The joint event was the first event which the committee had organised which involved the charging of a fee to non-RIAS members. It is hoped that this joint venture with Women in Property could become an annual event. Sandy raised the issue that of the 43 people who attend the event only 5 were from GIA which again highlighted the need to charge for events. Ian Hamilton asked how often the CPD events are attended by a high percentage of non GIA members. Sandy stated that it happens at almost every event.

5.4.3 Sandy McMillan advised that the NORD, Shirlaws and the Transport Museum had been cancelled and events planned now include a presentation on the Glasgow House in March, a visit to Hillhead Primary School pre-completion in April and a visit post-completion to Maggies Centre at Gartnavel. The committee is also considering arranging a visit to Arup's Sustainable Office but this would involve organising transport to South Queensferry.

5.4.4 Sandy McMillan updated on the work being done in respect of small practices. Regular contact is being made with the Stirling Society of Architects and the Edinburgh Chartered Architects Network to a view to pooling efforts for CPD events.

5.4.5 Sandy McMillan restated that the Practice/CPD Committee needed to prioritise a number of items, namely who will update CPD events on the GIA and RIAS websites, who should be co-opted onto the Committee, site experience for junior architects, events for small practice/sole practitioners, using previous GIA Award winners to present to members, what the Annual Update Event should cover and so on.

ACTION: All members to consider the items that the Practice/CPD Committee require done and pass suggestions to the Committee.

5.5 Conservation and Sustainability

5.5.1 Ian Hamilton advised that the next meeting of the Con-Sus Committee is due to take place on 17 January 2011. Ian reported that the committee are considering organising joint events with SEDA, Changeworks and the Glasgow Schools of Architecture. The committee is planning to run events up to the RIAS Convention which is scheduled to take place in Glasgow on 13 and 14 May 2011. The committee had hoped that conservation could be a theme for the Convention and Ian Hamilton had discussed this possibility with Neil Baxter and was advised that the theme for the convention had not yet been determined, but was likely to be education.

5.5.2 The President advised that the venue of the Convention was to be the Briggait and the theme is likely to be determined by who the guest speakers will be. Martin McKay stated that as the sponsoring Chapter the GIA should be involved in the Convention and not just be expected to turn up on the day.

5.5.3 The President asked about the proposed establishment of the Glasgow Architects Liaison Group and asked that the remit of such a group be closely monitored to ensure that the GIA interests are safeguarded.

5.5.4 Ian Hamilton advised Council that the Con-Sus committees had discussed the possibility of taking a stand at the Home Building and Renovation Show at the SECC in May 2011. The purpose of this would be to educate those attending the show on best practice in conserving historic buildings. It was proposed to run Masterclasses for the public which could offset the cost of the stand. The GSPC maybe approached for sponsorship and advertising.

ACTION: Matt Bridgestock and Ian Hamilton to work up a proposal and negotiate costs with the SECC.

6.0 ADDITIONAL REPORTS

6.1 RIAS Update

The President provided the following update:

- The RIAS has been preoccupied with the Scottish Futures Trust
- There are concerns over the costs of publishing and issuing the RIAS Quarterly
- RIAS Salary survey has been published only in part since there were concerns over how some of the information could be interpreted.

7.0 AOCB

7.1.1 The President asked that the exhibition of the 2010 GIA Design Award entries be organised for display in some of the award-winning buildings, and suggested Renfrew Health Centre and Elder and Cannon's Shettleston Housing Association's offices as possibilities.

7.1.2 The President advised that Michael Jarvis would not be available to take on the role of President for the 2011/12 GIA Session and as such someone else would have to be found to take on the role.

7.1.3 The President advised that plans now had to be made for the April AGM and asked for suggestions for speakers and a venue.

7.1.4 Jon-Marc Creaney advised that GIA would be running a photographic competition through the website. The theme of the competition would be Urban Beauty. Jon-Marc proposed that the initial entries should be electronic with only shortlisted entries properly printed for display. Plans for the competition included some sponsorship leads and the idea that architectural photographer Neale Smith would be one of the five judges and that there would be a small exhibition.

7.1.5 Tom Warren advised that the New Glasgow Society was re-launching on 05 March 2011 with an exhibition in their Argyle Street offices.

ACTION: Communications Committee to organise GIA Award Winners Exhibitions

ACTION: all members of Council to come up with suggestions for speakers and venues for AGM.

ACTION: Honorary Treasurer to confirm expenditure incurred through the previous running of the photographic competition to Jon-Marc Creaney.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

8.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 March 2011 at 5.30 p.m. in the offices of Glasgow City Heritage Trust, 54 Bell Street, Glasgow G1 1LQ.

Elizabeth Reid
Secretary GIA

25 January 2011