

PLANNING OFFICERS SOCIETY

MINUTES: of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Planning Officers Society held on Friday 27 January 2017 at Cavendish Conference Centre, 22 Duchess Mews, London, W1G 9DT

PRESENT: Mike Kiely, David Evans, Roger Hargreaves, Stephen Hill, Steve Ingram, Anna Rose, Paul Seddon, Dave Simpson, Finn Williams

ATTENDING: Linda Durnal (Company Secretariat), John Silvester (Communications Manager), Sara Whelan (Policy Manager) and Andrew Wright (General Manager, POSe)

Apologies: Bob Bennett and Graham Jones

PART A - CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Minutes 17/01-17/08 related to company business matters and have been omitted from this public copy of the minutes.

PART B - OPEN ITEMS

17/09	Report of Communications Manager The Board received the report which had been previously circulated.	
17/10	Diary dates 2017-18 The Board noted the revised list of dates for POS meetings in 2017-18 and AGREED that it would be helpful if the start time of meetings was added to the list (and to the listing on the website). The SP Network dates were now fixed and would be forwarded to the Communications Manager for adding to the list.	JS DS/JS
17/11	Report of Policy Manager The Board received the report which had been previously circulated.	
17/12	Consultation log The Board noted that the EIA consultation was still current requiring a response, because it is a directive from Europe which the UK is still subject to until after Brexit.	
17/13	POS Manifesto document - Compulsory purchase: three essential improvements The Board noted the revised draft that had been discussed at the Forum meeting earlier that day and that the draft had been shown to the RICS and two legal representatives for their views/opinions prior to publication. The Board AGREED: a) Publication of this document should be an urgent priority;	

	<p>b) Amendments discussed at the Forum should be made and a final draft circulated to the Board for agreement as soon as possible once responses had been received from the lawyers and the RICS;</p> <p>c) The finished document should be publicised and circulated as widely as possible.</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>JS</p>
17/14	<p>POS Manifesto document - Planning in the Digital Age - a modern use classes order</p> <p>The Board noted the revised draft that had been discussed at the Forum meeting earlier that day.</p> <p>The Board AGREED:</p> <p>a) That the paper should be left as it is at this stage</p> <p>b) That the appropriate licensing bodies should be contacted as soon as possible for informal meetings/discussions to introduce this approach and to identify any issues;</p> <p>c) To seek some way of quantifying the potential speeding up of the planning system that might be obtained from this approach;</p> <p>d) That the Chair should consider the benefit of including a worked example within the final document.</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>MK</p> <p>MK</p>
17/15	<p>POS manifesto documents</p> <p>The Chair tabled a full list of the current manifesto documents for information.</p> <p>The Board AGREED that this was already a significant list of documents and that some may very well need to be archived because they may have been superseded, rather than all being highlighted on the new website.</p>	
17/16	<p>Further POS manifesto documents</p> <p><u>Simplifying planning law - a radically practical approach</u></p> <p>The Board noted that the Chair had only recently been able to contact Charles Mynors about taking this idea forward. A meeting had now been arranged on 30 January to discuss this and the Chair would report back to the next Board meeting.</p> <p><u>Five year housing land supply</u></p> <p>As mentioned at Min 17/03 the Chair had asked Nicky Linihan to develop a first draft, following a recent discussion with her about how the supply is expressed and judged - the annualised target against a trajectory approach. The Board AGREED the development of such a paper could be very helpful at this stage.</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>MK/NL</p>
17/17	<p>Involving the membership in policy development</p> <p>The Board noted the email received from Catriona Riddell and that the Chair had spoken to her recently to discuss this issue in more detail.</p> <p>The Board AGREED:</p> <p>a) Board agendas and minutes would be split into two halves (Part A - confidential/financially sensitive items and Part B - open items) with the minutes of Part B of the agenda being</p>	<p>MK/LD</p>

	<p>published on the website;</p> <p>b) The minutes would remain a record of decisions taken but there would be a supplementary report back of discussions at both the Forum and the Board on policy matters, possibly within the President’s blog, as additional posts;</p> <p>c) The Policy Manager and Secretariat would assist the President in providing these additional blog posts;</p> <p>d) In the longer term once this system has been operated for a short period, there may be a need to further review the timings and order of Board and Forum meetings;</p> <p>e) There would be an opportunity to involve subject specialists in the Board deliberations of Part B policy items as appropriate by inviting them to attend these items at Board meetings on an ad hoc basis;</p> <p>f) In the longer term there might well be a need for a review of the most appropriate subject specialisms required;</p> <p>g) There was a need to produce draft consultation responses as soon as possible so that active regional convenors can pass them to members for use in their own authority’s consultation responses, although it was appreciated that this would be difficult to achieve given the deadlines often imposed for responses and time available.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>LD</p> <p>AR/JS SW/LD</p> <p>Board</p> <p>MK/LD</p> <p>Board</p> <p>SW</p>
17/18	<p>Development Management and Policy networks</p> <p>The Board noted the paper previously circulated from the two networks about operational issues and attendance levels at network meetings.</p> <p>The Board AGREED:</p> <p>a) The draft questionnaire which had been on hold should be pursued as soon as possible but that the draft needed substantial amendments to focus responses, and that further questions relating to the Forum meetings and communications matters should also be included. Previous group to undertake this exercise with addition of Finn Williams, Policy Manager and Secretariat;</p> <p>b) The Policy Manager would undertake a mapping exercise to identify other events open to Society members should be undertaken, by location, topic and date;</p> <p>c) To encourage the holding of more joint events on an ad hoc basis, including the active regions more with this;</p> <p>d) That a paper should be brought back to the July Board meeting with proposals that emerge following the questionnaire response analysis.</p>	<p>AR/BB/ SH/DS/ AJ/PS/ FW/SW/ LD</p> <p>SW</p> <p>All</p> <p>Networks</p>
17/19	<p>Report of President</p> <p>The Board noted the following meetings/events attended by the President.</p> <p>a) 2 meetings with Gavin Barwell which discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pooling • CIL review • 5 year housing land supply • Strategic planning and joint plans • Resourcing 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Meeting with CLG policy officers which gave a very different interpretation on some of the issues discussed with the Minister c) Initial meeting of the TCPA Round Table to discuss a New Towns Act revision d) Chaired POS/CLG Joint Plans event 	
17/20	<p>Report of POS Chair The Board noted the Chair's report which had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Board AGREED the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To provide regional contacts to Janice Morphet for the Bartlett UCL research project on Local Authority provision of housing; b) To provide more support to GL Hearn and the BPF who wish to look further at the issues raised by the survey through a number of round table events to look at specific concerns and consider best responses. Exact detail of support requested to be outlined in a paper by BPF to the next Board meeting. 	<p>MK/LD/FW</p> <p>MK</p>
17/21	<p>Report of NOVUS Chair The Board noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NOVUS membership was currently 160 with 984 followers on Twitter; b) 3 discussion papers had been published; c) Finn Williams had run a council led housing event and had spoken subsequently on behalf of POS at the event in Birmingham on housing provision for Janice Morphet; d) Worked with the Future Cities catapult on projects relating to viability data and the digital standards for planning applications; e) Involvement in the "Teach/Work for Planning" project which overlaps significantly with the work of NOVUS. This project could well be something for discussion at the Spring Conference in Milton Keynes; 	AR/LD
17/22	<p>Report of Development Management Network The Board noted that the network's next meeting would be in Southend on 24 February, and that this would be the first network event which had been advertised by flyer directly to the whole membership in a move to increase attendance.</p>	DM Netwk
17/23	<p>Report of Spatial Planning Network The Convenor reported that their last meeting in December had been relatively well attended and the Neighbourhood Planning lead at CLG had spoken. Their next meeting will include a presentation from PAS who have just had their funding confirmed for the next two years.</p>	
17/24	<p>Date of next meeting The next meeting will take place on the morning of Wednesday 29 March 2017. The venue will be confirmed as soon as the venue for</p>	LD

	the POS/BPF joint conference due to take place that afternoon has been confirmed.	
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