1. Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Conflicts of Interest

1.1. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting of Council.

1.2. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Andrew Ball, Ms Claire Curtis-Thomas, Dr Chris Donaghy-Spargo, Eur Ing Patrick Mason, Mr Mike Prewett and Professor Tim Whitley.

1.3. The Chair reminded the members of Council of the requirement to state any conflicts of interest that were pertinent to their contributions to the Council meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Discussion Forums

2.1. Council noted the approval of the proposal from the Monitoring Governance Working Party that access to the secure Council Discussion Forums and the secure area on the IET website should be limited to current Council members, as former Council members could not access the secure Office365 space (CO(18)33).

2.2. Mr Davis introduced and Council noted a proposal that Trustees should be invited to participate in the Council discussion forums on Office365 and Yammer (CO(19)1).
2.3. Several members expressed support for the proposal, however, it was noted that participation by Council members remained very low which might discourage Trustees from visiting more than once. It was agreed that the Monitoring Governance Working Party should review the proposal and draw up a further paper recommending a course of action to Council.

3. Proposed Bye-law Changes

3.1. Dr Evans introduced and Council noted a report on proposed Bye-law changes (CO(19)2). The Board of Trustees had asked for feedback on the proposals from Council, before it reached a decision on which proposals it would put to the membership for approval.

3.2. Following discussion it was agreed that all members of Council should post their comments on the proposals on the Discussion Forum and, in particular, give their views on which proposals should be put to the membership and which withdrawn. Dr Evans would then draw the comments together into a paper to go to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on 4 February 2019.

4. Effectiveness Surveys

4.1. Dr Evans introduced and Council noted a report concerning the recommendations arising from the most recent Board and Committee Effectiveness Surveys (CO(19)3).

4.2. Following discussion it was agreed that all members of Council should post their comments on the proposals on the Discussion Forum and that Dr Evans would then revise the paper to go to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on 4 February 2019.

5. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

5.1. Ms Sugden introduced and Council noted a report on the recently approved Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (CO(19)4).

5.2. In reply to questions, Ms Foster reported that a more detailed statement about the Strategy, including case studies, was in preparation. At the present time the Strategy did not address all the protected characteristics, but age and religion would be added in due course.

6. Council Champions

6.1. The Chair invited each of the Council Champions to make a brief oral report.

6.2. Mr Murdoch undertook to post a report on the Knowledge Services Board on the Discussion Forum

6.3. In the absence of Mr Prewett there was no report on the Membership and Professional Development Board.

6.4. In the absence of Dr Donaghy-Spargo there was no report on the Volunteer Engagement Board.

6.5. Mr Spyrou undertook to contact the three Main Board Champions to obtain their input to the SOFT report on the Main Boards for Council.

6.6. Mr Ratcliff gave a brief oral report as Champion for Digitisation. He suggested that Mr Richard Best should be asked to provide an update to his previous report to Council on this subject.
6.7. Dr Sugden gave a brief oral report as Champion for Diversity and commented on discussions with the Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

6.8. Miss Ho gave a brief oral report as Champion for Globalisation and commented on the different way of working of the IET’s Local Network Committees.

6.9. Professor Phillips gave a brief oral report as Champion for the Post-Truth Era and reported that a paper had been drafted for discussion at the next meeting of Council. He asked all members of Council to review and comment on the draft.

6.10. In the absence of Dr Cepeda Lopez there was no report on Strategy and Sustainability.

7. Close

The Chair closed the first part of the meeting and explained that it would resume at 19.00 hrs (GMT).

8. Welcome and Conflicts of Interest

8.1. The meeting resumed at 19.00 hrs (GMT) following a break of five hours.

8.2. The Chair welcomed members joining the second part of the meeting of Council.

8.3. The Chair reminded the members of Council of the requirement to state any conflicts of interest that were pertinent to their contributions to the Council meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.

9. Discussion Forums

9.1. Council noted the approval of the proposal from the Monitoring Governance Working Party that access to the secure Council Discussion Forums and the secure area on the IET website should be limited to current Council members, as former Council members could not access the secure Office365 space (CO(18)33).

9.2. Mr Davis introduced and Council noted a proposal that Trustees should be invited to participate in the Council discussion forums on Office365 and Yammer (CO(19)1).

9.3. It was agreed that the Monitoring Governance Working Party should review the proposal and draw up a further paper recommending a course of action to Council.

10. Proposed Bye-law Changes

10.1. Dr Evans introduced and Council noted a report on proposed Bye-law changes (CO(19)2). The Board of Trustees had asked for feedback on the proposals from Council, before it reached a decision on which proposals it would put to the membership for approval.

10.2. During discussion the staff were asked to provide information on the number of members required to requisition a General Meeting, as stated in the Bye-laws of other PEIs.

10.3. Dr Ward commented that there was some text meeting on page 4 of the document (section 8, row 2).
10.4. Following discussion it was agreed that all members of Council should post their comments on the proposals on the Discussion Forum and, in particular, give their views on which proposals should be put to the membership and which withdrawn. Dr Evans would then draw the comments together into a paper to go to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on 4 February 2019.

11. Effectiveness Surveys

11.1. Dr Evans introduced and Council noted a report concerning the recommendations arising from the most recent Board and Committee Effectiveness Surveys (CO(19)3).

11.2. Following discussion it was agreed that all members of Council should post their comments on the proposals on the Discussion Forum and that Dr Evans would then revise the paper to go to the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on 4 February 2019.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

Dr Sugden introduced and Council noted a report on the recently approved Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (CO(19)4).

13. Council Champions

13.1. The Chair invited each of the Council Champions to make a brief oral report.

13.2. Dr Sugden gave a brief oral report as Champion for Diversity and commented on discussions with the Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

13.3. Dr Cepeda Lopez gave a brief oral report as Champion for Strategy and Sustainability.

13.4. Mr Davis gave a brief oral report on behalf of Professor Phillips, the Champion for the Post-Truth Era.

13.5. It was suggested that future requests for input from Council members should state precise deadlines, so that it would be quite clear what was expected of each Council member.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 21 March 2019 at 15.00 hrs, at Savoy Place, London WC2.