

24 May 2021

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
MEMBERS ANNUAL INFORMATION EVENT
held on Thursday, 13 May 2021 at 2.30 pm (BST)
via Virtual Meeting**

Professor Danelle George, President, in the Chair

1. Announcements

- 1.1. The President welcomed members to the Members Annual Information Event which would present reports and updates on achievements in the year 2020, plans for the next few years, a report from Council, followed by the Annual Report and Accounts for the last year.
- 1.2. She explained that the IET had intended to hold the event at Savoy Place, but the COVID-19 pandemic meant that it could not take place. The Charity Commission had given charities dispensation not to hold AGMs as specified by Bye-laws, and for that reason the IET had arranged a virtual meeting instead of the usual face-to-face meeting.
- 1.3. It was noted that members had been invited to submit questions by emailing the IET or via the online chat facility provided by YouTube.
- 1.4. A recording of the live webcast of the meeting would be available afterwards on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED-GtL0usjE>).

2. Notice of Meeting

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Members Annual Information Event held on 16 September 2020 were taken as read.

4. Reports

- 4.1. The President introduced Mr Nigel Fine (Chief Executive and Secretary) and invited him to make a presentation on the IET's activities in 2020.
- 4.2. Mr Fine began his report with an update on what the IET had done during 2020 in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of members and staff had been treated as paramount. The IET buildings had been closed in line with Government guidelines, events had been held virtually and staff had been working from home.
- 4.3. Mr Fine drew attention to the highlights of the IET's activities as given in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020. He drew particular attention to the Young Woman of the Year Hong Kong, the rebranding of the E&T Innovation Awards, fundraising activities, the Engineer a Better World Campaign, the increase in coverage by Inspec which had passed the milestone of 20 million papers, the IET's journal publishing

partnership with Wiley, the develop of the IET Academy and IET.tv, the creation of three new Technical Networks, the establishment of the Digital Poverty Alliance, and the UK Cyber Security Council.

- 4.4. The President gave a detailed report on the IET's plans for the future. She drew particular attention to the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Institution in 1871, the Global Difference Makers Campaign, the Young Woman Engineer of the Year Award, the five Societal Challenges and the IET 2030 Strategy.

5. Report from Council

- 5.1. The President introduced Mr David Hogan (Chair of Council) and invited him to make a presentation on Council in 2020.
- 5.2. Mr Hogan drew attention to the range of subjects on which Council had provided strategic advice to the Board of Trustees, including Sustainability and Climate Change and the creation of the IET 2030 Strategy.

6. Report from Foothold

- 6.1. The President introduced Dr Dolores Byrne (Chair of the Board of Foothold, the IET Benevolent Fund) and invited her to make a presentation about the work of Foothold.
- 6.2. Dr Byrne gave a detailed report on IET Connect during the year 2020 and highlighted the ways in which it helped IET members and their dependents in times of need.

7. Trustees Report and Financial Statements

- 7.1. The President introduced Ms Fiona Condron (BDO LLP) and invited her to make a statement on behalf of the auditors regarding the audit of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.
- 7.2. Ms Condron made a statement on behalf of the auditors, BDO LLP, and reported that the IET had received an unqualified audit opinion.
- 7.3. The President introduced Dr Colin Arthur (Honorary Treasurer) and invited him to present the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.
- 7.4. Dr Arthur gave a detailed report on the IET accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

8. Votes of Thanks

- 8.1. Air Marshal Sir Julian Young (Deputy President) proposed that the Best Thanks of the IET be accorded to the Honorary Officers and members of all Boards and Committees of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.
- 8.2. The President proposed that the Best Thanks of the IET be accorded to the staff of the Institution.

9. Q&A Session

- 9.1. The President thanked members for submitting questions.
- 9.2. In the time available the President, the Chief Executive and Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance and Planning replied to the following questions from members:

- Mr John Campbell-Smith asked about the IET's online events booking system.
- Lt-Col James Sweetman asked about the availability of a recording of the Members Annual Information Event.
- Mr Colin Davis asked about the IET's planning for future global pandemics.
- Dr Michel Fiorini asked about the IET's book publishing programme.
- A member asked about the IET's commitment to sustainability.
- Mr Paul Smith asked about the recent fall in membership numbers.
- Mr Pikarb Dey-Ola asked about membership recruitment in Africa.
- A member asked about the use of the IET's financial reserves.
- Dr Frank Johnson asked about changes to the IET's Schools Liaison STEM resources.
- Mr T Pritchard asked about support for neurodiversity.

10. Close

The President closed the meeting.