

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SOCIETY

held on Saturday 6 July 2024 at 11.30 am
at the **Council Chamber at the Temple of Peace in Cathays Park, Cardiff**

1. **Attendance:** the Meeting was quorate.
2. **Apologies for absence:** a list is available from the Society's office.
3. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 8 July 2023 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising not covered in the items below.

5. President's Address

President Catherine Slessor welcomed members to the meeting in Welsh. She referenced Shirley Bassey's 'The Girl from Tiger Bay' as an emblem of Welsh identity and noted how Cardiff had been transformed by devolution. The new political regime gives hope for a similar transformation more generally. Meanwhile, the work of the Society goes on. She emphasised that the Director, caseworkers and staff do extraordinary work with vigour and skill. There is still much work to be done in raising awareness among supporters and sceptics, and we need to consider what the Society will evolve into. She surveyed some of the highlights of the last year, including the listing of Outram's Sphinx Hill House, the creation of an early career group, and the publication of Gavin Stamp's book 'Interwar'. She reminded members of the Elain Harwood Memorial Fund, which will be used to fund a casework intern, and of the very moving day held at the Purcell room in her memory. The Society's work continues, with campaigns, casework, tours and publications, delivered with limited resources.

6. Chair's Address

- 6.1. The Chair thanked C20 Cymru for hosting the meeting.
- 6.2. The Chair noted that he has now been in office for a year and feels he is now up to speed. He has been impressed by how much we are able to achieve with slender resources, due especially to the diligent work of our caseworkers and our volunteers on the events side (with a special thanks to Cela Selley, the trustee with oversight of events). He has also been impressed by our media and social media profile.
- 6.3. The Chair noted two recent cases as examples of 'the good and the bad'. The good was the listing of Outram's Sphinx Hill House, now the youngest listed building. The bad was Milton Gate in the City, an unlisted building by Denys Lasdun and Peter Softley, which developers propose to 'retrofit' by removing all

the glass cladding. He commented that office buildings in London now seemed to be regarded as temporary structures.

- 6.4. The Chair thanked the trustees who had retired during the year (Caz Facey, Peter Ruback, and Neal Shasore). It is proposed to fill the six vacancies in the board with a new cohort of people with wide experience useful to us. In response to our advertisement, we had 50 applicants, interviewed 15 and selected six who are proposed for members' approval later in the meeting.
- 6.5. At the suggestion of trustee Otto Saumarez Smith, a C20 Early Career Group was formed, with some 25 members, to encourage the involvement of the next generation.
- 6.6. The Chair had been surprised to find that the Society had no business plan and had been gradually running down its reserves. He has been working with the Director and trustee Jeremy Gostick (chair of our Audit and Risk Committee) on a three year plan. This is still more of a 'wish list' but with the objective that by the time of the 2027 AGM we will be 'sustainably at break-even or better'. Separately, our proposed new trustee Colin Mitchell is conducting a business audit of the Society.
- 6.7. On fundraising, the Chair noted that there will be an invitation-only event hosted by Lady Patty Hopkins at her home in October. Invitees will include people from the most successful built-environment practices, with the objective of persuading them to become patron-level supporters to give us a bigger and more predictable income stream.
- 6.8. The Chair also noted that another effective method of fundraising is legacies. In addition to making donations, members are encouraged to include the Society in their wills. Both donations and legacies can go into the Elain Harwood Memorial Fund established last year, which we hope to grow into a considerable resource for funding the Society's work.
- 6.9. The Chair thanked the Director and staff for their work and volunteers for their contributions.
- 6.10. In response to a request for questions, a representative of the West Midlands Group on Zoom noted the continuing unhappiness at the closing down of regional groups last year (see Any other business below).

7. Hon Treasurer's Report

- 7.1. In the unavoidable absence of the Hon Treasurer, Carolyn Parmeter, the Director presented the financial update on 2023. Due to various bookkeeping issues, the draft accounts had only been received the day before the meeting and there are still various issues outstanding; nevertheless, the draft accounts had been posted on the website and paper copies were available in the meeting room. A Financial Report had been published on the website, but the figures are provisional.
- 7.2. Nevertheless, the draft financial position is better than anticipated. Overall income for the year was £411,926 against expenditure of £418,654, leaving a deficit of £6,728, somewhat less than last year. This is particularly welcome for a year in which a Journal was published, which normally leads to a larger deficit. Unrestricted cash reserves at the end of 2023 were £340,065.

- 7.3.** On the basis of the provisional figures, the largest sources of income for the year were:

Membership	£192,810
	£47,043
HE and CADW grants	£37,620
Educational events	£26,221
Grants and donations	£22,051
Elain Harwood Memorial Fund	£9,641
Publications profits	

- 7.4.** Expenditure was as follows:

Staff costs	£212,304
	£21,468
Rent	£33,610
Other office costs	£35,330
Magazine (net of advertising income)	£13,897
Marketing, campaigns and website	£22,910
Journal 15 (net of restricted funds donations)	

- 7.5.** When the accounts are finalised, the deficit might be lower but could be as high as £20,000. Members are asked to approve the draft accounts, on the basis that if the final position is materially and negatively different, the accounts will be presented at an EGM. They were approved on this basis on a show of hands.

8. Resolutions

The following resolutions were approved individually by a unanimous show of hands by those in the room and on Zoom.

- 8.1. Ordinary Resolution** to re-appoint Argents Accountants Ltd as auditors
- 8.2. Ordinary Resolution** to approve the 2023 Accounts, on the basis outlined above.
- 8.3. Ordinary Resolution** to elect Hiba Alobaydi, recommended by the Directors under Article 27 of the Articles of Association, as a Director and Trustee

- 8.4. **Ordinary Resolution** to elect Adam Coleman, recommended by the Directors under Article 27 of the Articles of Association, as a Director and Trustee
- 8.5. **Ordinary Resolution** to elect Emma England, recommended by the Directors under Article 27 of the Articles of Association, as a Director and Trustee
- 8.6. **Ordinary Resolution** to elect Phineas Harper, recommended by the Directors under Article 27 of the Articles of Association, as a Director and Trustee
- 8.7. **Ordinary Resolution** to elect Colin Mitchell, recommended by the Directors under Article 27 of the Articles of Association, as a Director and Trustee
- 8.8. **Ordinary Resolution** to elect Peter Parkes, recommended by the Directors under Article 27 of the Articles of Association, as a Director and Trustee
- 8.9. **Ordinary Resolution** to re-elect Sarah Jackson as a Director and Trustee (being one of the one third of existing Directors required to retire in accordance with the rotation requirements of Article 24 of the Articles of Association)
- 8.10. **Ordinary Resolution** to re-elect Andrew Jackson as a Director and Trustee (being one of the one third of existing Directors required to retire in accordance with the rotation requirements of Article 24 of the Articles of Association)
- 8.11. **Ordinary Resolution** to re-elect Catherine Slessor as President in accordance with Article 18A of the Articles of Association for a period of three years

9. Director's Report

- 9.1. Board: The Director thanked the three retiring trustees (Peter Ruback, Caz Facey and Neal Shasore) and welcomed the six new trustees. The first board meeting with the new trustees will be on 3 September.
- 9.2. Staff: Jonathan Woods has joined as Operations Manager, joining Oli Marshall (Campaigns Manager), Coco Whittaker (Head of Casework) and new joiner Gus Wray (Caseworker). Gus's architectural training complements Coco's architectural history expertise. The Director also thanked the staff who had left during the year: Andrea Crooks (Operations Manager), Clare Price (caseworker who left after 14 years to work for the Church of England on major churches and cathedrals), and Andrew Murray (Membership and Events Assistant, who is returning to Australia, having edited the Society's forthcoming book on Sustainable Buildings).
- 9.3. Elain Harwood: An emotional Remembering Elain Event was held on 9 September 2023 in London. Her final book, on Erno Goldfinger (co-written with trustee Alan Powers), will be officially launched shortly. Donations are still invited to the Elain Harwood C20 Memorial Fund; the fund has reached approximately 25% of the £150,000 target.
- 9.4. Publications: The magazine continues to be a good calling card; two issues a year are published. The Director thanked the authors of the three monographs published in 2023, on Cullinan, Gwynne and Womersley; two additional

monographs on Lubetkin and Goldfinger will be published in 2024. The Society published books on 20th century shops and 20th century buildings (a re-issue) and a journal on Holy Houses. The cost to the Society of producing the journal Twentieth Century Architecture has been increasing steadily, and it may in future be distributed in electronic form to save printing and postage. The monograph series requires a subsidy of £5,000 per volume, covered by specific fundraising and is therefore cost neutral for the Society, whilst the publications in partnership with Batsford make a small profit.

- 9.5. Events: The Society had organised a full programme of UK and international tours and lectures. There were two spring lecture series, on The 1980s and 90s and on World Brutalism. The autumn lecture series was on Monumentality. There were also several one-off lectures. We will continue with the hybrid format. Other events included a visit to Surrey in the footsteps of Nairn, a visit to Ipswich, weekends in Swansea, North Wales and Edinburgh, and a visit to the Gavin Stamp archive at the Mellon Centre. Forthcoming tour destinations include Berlin and the Bauhaus, Chicago and Cologne. The Director thanked all the event volunteers, in particular Cella Selley and Polly Schlesinger.
- 9.6. Education: Highlights included continuing professional development training for RIBA, participating in Getty Conservation Institute training, the Director's course on concrete conservation for West Dean College and a lecture for BALT.
- 9.7. Press coverage: The Society had received good press coverage for its campaigns, in the national press, TV and radio. Activity on the Society's key social media accounts continued to grow, with the Twitter account up by 29% and the Instagram account up by 26%.
- 9.8. C20 Shop: The online shop had been revamped to be easier to use, to keep better track of stock and to widen the choice of merchandise.
- 9.9. Casework and Campaigns: Campaign highlights included the Risk List, the Cooling Towers campaign and the Building of the Month series on sustainable buildings (which will form the basis for a new Batsford book on sustainable buildings). The Director gave examples of some of the good outcomes during the past year, and drew attention to two outstanding post-war buildings which are being sold by their original owners (the Feilden building in York and Congress House in London). It is evidence of the progress which we have made that the dialogue around the future of these is not about the likelihood of demolition, but of the potential for sensitive retrofit and conversion, and C20 will be involved at early stage with both buildings to help ensure this.

10. Casework

- 10.1. Head of Casework Coco Whittaker gave an overview of casework during the year. The breadth and depth of the work is indicated by the following statistics:

2,017 Consultations logged
753 Cases taken forward for assessment
181 Written responses to consultations
45 Pre-application consultations
31 Listing applications submitted

- 19 Designation consultations and listing support
- 10.2.** Changes in staff: departure of Clare Price, promotion of Coco Whittaker to Head of Casework and addition of new Caseworker Gus Wray.
- 10.3.** Coco gave an overview of 15 listings during the year (including Gulliver's Foot; Our Lady of Fatima, Harlow; the Light House, Camden; the Dome, Doncaster; 34 Belsize Lane, Camden; Church of St Nicholas, Fleetwood, Lancashire; Manze's Eel Pie and Mash shop, London; Church of St Richard, Richmond; Livi skatepark, Scotland; 16-18 Connaught Place, London; Finish Olympic Sauna; Ron's Place; Crawick Multiverse; Pencadlys Gwynedd; and the Arts Centre at Aberystwyth University).
- 10.4.** She also gave an overview of a number of consultations the caseworkers had dealt with, demonstrating the wide variety of buildings affected.

11. Any other business

- 11.1.** One member on Zoom asked whether older members could be kept up to speed with the activities of the Early Career Group; it was confirmed that they would be. Another Zoom member from the West Midlands expressed the continuing discontent over the dissolution of the Regional Groups and asked what mechanism there is for regional members to contribute. The Director offered to have a separate conversation with her.
- 11.2.** Thanks were expressed for the photography carried out by John East.

There being no other business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

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Date: 2025

Hugh Pearman, Chair