

2 November 2020

**PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
MEMBERS ANNUAL INFORMATION EVENT  
held on Wednesday, 16 September 2020 at 2.00 pm (BST)  
via Virtual Meeting**

Dr Peter Bonfield, 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 2019, plans for the next few years, a report from Council, followed by the Annual Report and Accounts for the last year.
- 1.2. He explained that the IET had intended to hold the event at Savoy Place on 14 May 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic meant that it could not take place. The Charity Commission had given charities dispensation not to hold AGMs in 2020 as specified by Bye-laws, and for that reasons 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 IET.tv (<https://tv.theiet.org/?videoid=14512>).

**2. Notice of Meeting**

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 May 2019 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 2019.
- 4.2. Mr Fine prefaced his report with an update on what the IET had been doing during 2020, particularly 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 gave a detailed report on the IET's activities in 2019, as given in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019. He drew particular attention to the strategic priorities and the activities which had helped "to inspire, inform and influence the global engineering community". He concluded by reporting on the plans for the refurbishment of the IET's administration building, Michael Faraday House in Stevenage.

- 4.4. The President gave a detailed report on the IET's plans for the future. He drew particular attention to:
- The IET's support for members in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Efforts to champion the professionalism of engineers and technicians to improve skills, ethics and competency across the sector.
  - The transfer of all IET journals to Open Access.
  - Plans for the IET's 150th anniversary in 2021.

## **5. Report from Council**

- 5.1. The President introduced Dr Peter Ward (Chair of Council) and invited him to make a presentation on Council in 2019.
- 5.2. Dr Ward drew attention to the range of subjects on which Council had provided strategic advice to the Board of Trustees, including:
- 50-year strategy.
  - The IET's 150th anniversary in 2021
  - President's themes.
  - Climate change.

## **6. Trustees Report and Financial Statements**

- 6.1. 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 2019.
- 6.2. Ms Condron made a statement on behalf of the auditors, BDO LLP, and reported that the IET had received an unqualified audit opinion.
- 6.3. The President introduced Dr Colin Arthur (Honorary Treasurer) and invited him to present the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019.
- 6.4. Dr Arthur gave a detailed report on the IET accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019.

## **7. Q&A Session**

- 7.1. The President thanked members for submitting questions.
- 7.2. In the time available the President replied to the following questions from members:
- Dr Phil Derbyshire asked about the IET's new Career Manager tool for reporting CPD.
  - Mr Ching Man asked about the impact of Brexit on IET qualifications.
  - Mr Chris Jones asked about thanking volunteers for their important contribution to the work of the IET.
  - Mr Robin Lee asked about the closure of the IET building in Glasgow.
  - Ms Meenal Burrows asked about virtual events.
  - Dr Tom Chilton asked about members ties and badges.
  - Mr Steve Markham asked about STEM Ambassadors.
  - Mr Aaron Marshall about online events and apps.
  - Mr K Shyam asked about the multi-disciplinarity of the IET.
  - Dr Alison Vincent asked about differentiation between the IET and the Fellowship of Engineering.
  - Mr Stephen Andrews asked about the governance of the IET.

## **8. Votes of Thanks**

- 8.1. Professor Danielle George (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. Close**

The President closed the meeting.