



**COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, 10 March 2022**  
**1.30 pm**  
**In Burlington House and via Zoom**

Prof. Martin Millett, President, in the Chair

Present: Mr Stephen Dunmore, Treasurer  
Dr Heather Sebire, Hon. Secretary  
Dr John Cooper, Director  
Prof. John Hines, Vice-President  
Dr Sam Lucy, Vice-President  
Ms Nathalie Cohen  
Prof. Roey Sweet  
Dr Tim Schroder  
Dr Bob Bewley  
Prof. Vince Gaffney  
Ms Victoria Bryant  
Dr Emily Cole

In attendance: Mr John Lewis, General Secretary  
Ms Katy Drake, Head of Finance and Resources  
Ms Dunia Garcia-Ontiveros, Head of Library and Museum Collections  
Dr Linda Grant, Governance Manager  
Mr Dominic Wallis, Head of Development  
Mr James Cross, Moore Kingston Smith

Apologies: None

1/22 The President drew the attention of Council to the statement on the Society's website condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and expressing concern about cultural destruction, as well as the humanitarian crisis.

2/22 Health and Safety Matters  
Nothing to report.

3/22 Minutes and Matters arising  
The minutes of the Council Meeting of 9 December 2021, having been circulated, were agreed and signed.

4/22 Strategic Plan

- i) A draft discussion paper having been circulated, the President outlined the process for the development of the next 5 year strategic plan.
- ii) It was agreed that the process would start with an awayday for trustees and senior staff after the Anniversary Meeting, possibly with the aid of a facilitator. **Action: LG to circulate suggested dates at KM.**
- iii) In the discussion it was suggested that the Society think about how to foster research and put it at the heart of the Society's activities, especially research that falls outside the REF/conventional university frameworks; and thinks more proactively about the

current grant awards and funding. This switch will require investment and a revamped communications strategy to support it.

5/22 BH Campaign and Lease Update (Confidential)

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vi) The Government requested that these discussions be kept confidential.

6/22 Strategic Business Plan: Quarter 4 Progress Report

The Q4 Progress Report having been circulated, the Gen. Sec. reported highlights:

- i) Room hire seems to be tentatively picking up.
- ii) Monographs are delayed; the Henry VIII inventory vol.3 is progressing with a chapter being edited a month, so it's still a year to publication. [REDACTED] Archaeologia is being relaunched as an online only publication.
- iii) In person attendance at OMs has been very low, though the lunchtime public lectures are better attended. The Thursday evening lecture programme should be reviewed as part of the strategy plan.
- iv) The KM launch will take place on 24 March 2022, with the manor re-opening on 1 April 2022. The Head of Development was congratulated on exceeding the funding target.
- v) The President thanked Society staff warmly for doing a fantastic job under the Gen. Sec's leadership.

7/22 Treasurer's Report

Minutes of Finance Committee of 24 February 2022 having been circulated, the Treasurer reported:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- ii) Mr James Cross confirmed that the audit has been completed and that MKS will be issuing a clean audit opinion. The post-audit management report is being finalised and the going concern work has been completed. Observations made during the

- audit have been agreed by management, and those of the previous year are being addressed. The Statutory Accounts for 2021-2 were approved. The Treasurer thanked James, the Gen. Sec. and Head of Finance for an excellent job.
- iii) Papers having been previously circulated and recommended by Finance Committee, Council approved the Q3 Management Accounts. The Society is in relatively good shape given other pressures but it is imperative that KM is fully operational as planned.
  - iv) The 2022-23 budget, having been recommended by Finance Committee and previously circulated, was approved and formally adopted. The Treasurer noted that this is a 'deficit' budget with the underlying operational deficit made worse by the two-year impact of Covid-19 and rent, insurance and pension increases. The proposed Affiliate Scheme will be a new income stream.
  - v) The Head of Finance reminded Council that liquidity will run out in 22 years, making the key point that the Society cannot simply continue doing what it has done. It was noted that Financial sustainability would be a key focus of discussion in drawing up the new strategic plan.
  - vi) There was some discussion about whether it would be beneficial to make KM and BH separate financial and legal entities, while keeping them single in public appearance.
  - vii) Council noted the renewed terms of three members of Finance Committee and the appointment of Colin Sheaf as a new member.
  - viii) The President congratulated the Treasurer, Gen. Sec. and staff on navigating the Society through the pandemic and other pressures so well in comparison with some other charities.
  - ix) Mr James Cross left the meeting at 2.55 pm.

8/22 Fellowship Committee

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Fellowship Committee of 27 January 2022 were circulated and noted.

9/22 Ethical Conduct Body

There was nothing to report. The Treasurer asked the Governance Manager to continue to keep members involved with the Society.

10/22 Director's Report

The Director reported:

- i) There are three new members of Research Committee.
- ii) Research Committee will be meeting on 17 March 2022 to make this year's Research Grant awards: there is c.£160k to disburse. As there has been a build up of accumulated funds in some cases (de Cardi, Janet Arnold), the Director will be meeting with the Head of Finance and Governance Manager to discuss how to use this money, possibly through major awards next year.
- iii) It was recognised that the current grants process is unwieldy and time-intensive: the Head of Finance and Governance Manager are meeting with a view to streamline the process and explore technical solutions. The President suggested looking at the British Academy's system.

11/22 Secretary's Report

Minutes of Library & Collections Committee of 10 February 2022 having been circulated, the Hon. Sec. reported:

- i) Sotheby's have put in a late loan request for Mary I for the Platinum Jubilee, but it's not clear whether the portrait will be on public display or for a private group so this is pending.

12/22 KMPPE

The Gen. Sec. reported that KM staff are working hard on the launch party and reopening of KM, with support from BH staff.

13/22 Anniversary Nominations

Nominations having been previously circulated, were noted by Council. There were three nominations for three vacant places on Council (two ordinary members, and Director) so there will be no need for an election. The candidates will start their term of office on 28 April 2022 following the Anniversary Meeting that day.

14/22 Nominations, resignations and deaths of Fellows

The Gen. Sec. reported that since 9 December 2021, there have been 14 Fellows deceased, 8 resignations, and 47 Fellows newly elected: the current total is 3,081 Fellows.

15/22 AOB

The President offered his warmest thanks to Prof. Vince Gaffney and Dr Sam Lucy, both of whom will be stepping down from Council at the Anniversary Meeting. He went on to thank Mr John Lewis, Gen. Sec. for whom this was his last Council before he retires at the Anniversary Meeting. John, he stated, has been an exemplary Gen. Sec. who has turned around KM, dealt with long-term problems with accounting, and has led the Society through the difficulties of Covid, the Mr Chesshyre case, and the ongoing issue of the lease. The trustees endorsed these thanks.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.25 pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 30 June, 2022 at 1.30 pm.