SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

COUNCIL
Thursday, 29 June 2023
1.30 pm
In Burlington House and via Zoom

Prof. Martin Millett, President, in the Chair

Present: Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith, Vice-President
Dr Bob Bewley
Dr Emily Cole
Dr Ann MacSween
Ms Victoria Bryant
Dr Tim Schroder
Prof. Simon Kaner
Dr Tom Williams
Ms Shahina Farid
Dr Heather Sebire

In attendance: Ms Memoria Lewis, Interim 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

Apologies: John Cooper, Rosemary Sweet, Carol Bell

23/23 Confidential Item – Trustees Only

24/23 Apologies and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
As this was the first Council for Memoria Lewis as interim Gen. Sec. and new Trustees Tom Williams and Shahina Farid, introductions were made. Apologies were noted. There were no declared conflicts of interest.

25/23 Update on Gen. Sec. role and Council
i) The President reported that Saxton Bampfylde would be briefed on a second search for a permanent Gen. Sec. in late summer/autumn 2023 [redacted] A Search Committee would be set up comprising the officers, two trustees and two staff members.
ii) The President announced the appointment of Elizabeth Hallam Smith as Vice-President which was welcomed by the meeting.

26/23 Minutes and matters arising
The minutes of the Council Meeting of 9 March 2023, were approved and signed, subject to the minor correction of inserting Dr Tim Schroder as present at that meeting [done, post meeting].
There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

27/23 BH Lease (Confidential)

i) The President gave a verbal update on the lease situation and asked that this be kept confidential. Council approved the approach being taken in negotiations.

ii) A fundraising team had been set up comprising MM/DW/CB/ML/KD/Andrew Macdonald for financing the purchase of a lease and BH building refurbishment.

iii) There would be an additional Council meeting to discuss and approve any offer agreed with the Government.

iv) Council approved the appointment of Nigel Fox outside of the usual procurement policy: he would be working on behalf of all of the Courtyard Societies. There would also be an appointment of specialist lawyers by all the Courtyard Societies.

v) The President reported that the sums for alternative accommodation looked to be more expensive than the prospective cost of a lease to stay at BH.

28/23 Strategy implementation, values and proposed new quarterly reporting template

i) The Gen. Sec. gave a verbal report on staff activities during the previous quarter including the Rituals of Power Late Event, Open Day Fridays and outreach events, Smartify, the launch of the KM website, the BBC filming the community dig at KM, and the upcoming KM exhibition. She noted that KM figures are 20-25% below budgeted visitor numbers and this will be looked at in detail by ML/KD. She also noted the upcoming purchasing of an integrated grants management system.

ii) Papers having been previously circulated, Council approved the proposed new quarterly operations report which would be based on the strategic 'four pillars'.

iii) Council also approved the direction of travel as outlined on the 'four pillars'. There was still some confusion about the differences between 'pillars', and the question of prioritization raised. A 'traffic lights' system was agreed to give a visual overview of progress. The meeting noted that strategic activities should be aspirational rather than 'business as usual'.

iv) It was agreed that the Gen. Sec. would do a brief overview report at the start of each Council meeting, with complementary 'deep dives' into key topics: finances, KM, research, Library and collections.

v) A paper having been previously circulated, Council approved the extended values statement which includes how the values could be made meaningful to staff.

vi) The work of the EDI Steering Group was noted, and it was agreed that EDI in its widest meaning should be embedded in all Society activities and underpin all four 'pillars' of the strategy. It was agreed that all trustees should promote EDI within the Fellowship and to act as ambassadors and role models. TS had agreed to write a series of short articles in *SALON* on the components of EDI and to stress the need for advocacy as well as the proactive recruitment and nomination of candidates for Fellowship.

vii) It was agreed that 'honesty' and 'integrity' should be in the values statement. **ACTION: MM/ML.**

viii) The President commended the Gen. Sec. and all staff for their proactive engagement with the strategy.

29/23 Review of Committees Terms of Reference

The President reported that as committees' ToRs had not been reviewed for a few years, they would be scrutinised at the first meeting of each committee in the autumn, before coming to Council with any proposed amendments.

30/23 Royal and Honorary Fellows

i) The President noted that the Duke of Gloucester was the Society's Royal Patron but that it might be helpful to have one of the younger members of the Royal family as a Royal Fellow. Council approved that an approach be made by the President via the Duke of Gloucester's equerry and Fellows who might be able to help. **ACTION: MM**.

ii) The President additionally noted that there have been no Honorary Fellows elected for some time. There was some discussion about criteria for Honorary Fellowship

e.g. people who could work as advocates for the Society but who were outside the fields represented by the Society. It was noted that Honorary Fellows could have an impact on EDI.

iii) The creation of a new class of Benefactors might be implemented to recognise financial supporters of the Society.
ACTION: Points ii) and iii) to be discussed in more detail at Fellowship Committee.

31/23 Treasurer's Report
Papers having been previously circulated, KD reported in the absence of the Treasurer:

i) Council approved the re-appointment of Sarasin as investment managers.

[redacted]

iii) Council approved the recommendation of Finance Committee on the insurance policy. The President thanked staff for the work on this.

iv) Council approved the recommendations of Finance Committee on cashflow: £100k overdraft facility and permission to exceed budgeted drawdowns from the unrestricted fund up to maximum £250k in the year ended 31st March 2024.

v) The President stressed the importance of financial stability for the Society: this would be looked at again after the issue of the lease was resolved.

vi) The updated Risk Register was approved: it was noted that it would be reformatted to align with the strategic 'four pillars' for 2023–24.

32/23 Committee Minutes
Minutes for Research Committee, Fellowship Committee, Morris Committee, Library & Collections Committee and Publications Committee having been circulated previously, the following points were agreed:

i) A Belgium/Benelux Regional Fellows Group was approved. It was noted that GDPR was impacting on the ability of groups to manage their communications. **ACTION: ML to discuss with AH.**

ii) Stephen Dunmore, after stepping down as Treasurer, was approved to join Fellowship Committee.

iii) The President drew Council's attention to the discussion about medals at Fellowship Committee and Council approved that future medals awards would be the Society Medal for voluntary services to the Society, awarded on an *ad hoc* basis; and the Gold Medal, awarded once during a President's term for outstanding contributions to any discipline within the Society's areas of interest.

iv) Council approved the appointment of Jonathan Goodchild to a third term on Morris Committee.

v) It was reported that further to Library/Collections Committee minutes, the purchase of the Marie Stillman painting would go ahead with a combination of funding from the V&A and the surplus from the KMPPF project.

vi) The President announced the appointment of Catrina Appleby as Monographs Manager on a contract basis.

[Liz Hallam Smith left the meeting at 3.20 pm]

33/23 Policy Committee.
The President reported that it was decided that Policy Committee should be convened on an *ad hoc* basis in relation to consultation and policy issues rather than having a standing schedule: the membership would remain unchanged and be regarded as a specialist panel on policy.

34/23 Health & Safety
Nothing to report.

35/23 Ethical Conduct Board
Nothing to report. The President suggested that a lunch be arranged for members. **ACTION: LG**

36/23 Committee schedule and members lists 2023-24
These were received by Council.

37/23 Trustees Register of Interests and Trustees' Declarations of Disqualification
The Gov. Mgr. reported that a few Trustees Register of Interest forms were outstanding [post-meeting: all received]; all new trustees' Declaration of Disqualification forms were received.

38/23 Nominations, resignations, amovals and deaths of Fellows
The Gov. Mgr. reported that since the last meeting of Council there had been 13 Fellows deceased, 10 resignations, 0 amoved, and 50 newly elected with 19 in upcoming July and August ballots: the total Fellowship was 3,086 (3,061 at previous Council, March 2023).

There were 373 affiliates.

39/23 AOB
i) TW asked whether the installation of the new CCTV system might have a positive impact on insurance premiums: **ACTION: KD to check.**

[redacted]

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.40 pm.

Martin Millett, President June 2023
Linda Grant, Governance Manager