Landscape Institute
Inspiring great places

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Landscape Institute Thursday 7 November 2024 at 17.00pm held via Zoom

Chair: Carolin Göhler FLI PLI President	Mat Haslam FLI Hon Treasurer	Mark Smeeden CMLI Hon Secretary
Marc Norden Independent Trustee	Christine House CMLI Chair, Education & Membership Committee	Ian Phillips CMLI Chair, Policy & Communications Committee
Jane Clarke Independent Trustee	Helen Oldfield Independent Trustee	

Staff:

Rob Hughes CEO	Jonathan Ellis Director Membership & Professional Standards	Belinda Gordon Director Policy & Public Affairs
Rowena Lovell Board Secretary	Steve Randall Head of Finance	Neelam Sheemar Head of Marketing, Communications & Events
Tim Byford Membership Services Manager	Tom Jenks Marketing & Campaigns Manager	Yvonne Matthews EA to Leadership Team
Karen Rogers Membership Engagement Manager	Andrew Rylah Policy & Public Affairs Manager	Emma Wood Governance & Regulations Manager

Carolin Göhler (CG), Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was quorate, introduced the Trustees in attendance and confirmed that:

- All members eligible to vote had the opportunity to do so in advance and that online voting for those in attendance at the meeting would remain open until the conclusion of the main business of the AGM;

  and

- The agenda has been re-ordered to allow more time for members questions and answers.

2 Presentation from Mat Haslam, Honorary Treasurer

The meeting noted a presentation from Mat Haslam (MH) Honorary Treasurer, on the financial position of the Institute and the future picture.

MH opened by formally recording thanks to the CEO and staff team, Finance & Risk Committee, and the Board of Trustees for ensuring finance runs through all that we do in and their essential support in maintaining financial rigour.

A full recording of the presentation and slides is available online and in summary:

- Reviewed 2023/24 budget goals and deficit reduction strategies, aiming for a balanced budget in 2025/26
- Outlined achievements including lower than expected deficit, reducing expenditure and a clean audit report
- Highlighted key 2024/25 goals: not to exceed the agreed budgeted deficit; to grow non-member income, to reduce expenditure, and to re- focus the Institute on its core objectives of membership, education and careers and policy and public affairs

3 Report from Rob Hughes, CEO Landscape Institute

The meeting noted a presentation from Rob Hughes (RH), LI CEO on the progress over the last year and the future focus and priorities of the organisation moving forward.

A full recording of the presentation and slides is available online and in summary:

- Highlighted the changes introduced to date under the "New Ways of Working" programme
- Re-affirmed commitment to putting members views and needs at the heart of everything the Institute does
- Emphasised the continued focus on financial discipline
- Reported progress on the ongoing digital transformation, with the new platform on schedule to go live in Autumn 2025.

4 Approve the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held 31 January 2024

The members voted to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the AGM held 31 January 2024 with a summary vote as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
177	6	35

5 Receive the Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts of the Institute for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2024

The members voted to receive the Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts of the Landscape Institute for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 with a summary vote as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
193	8	18

6 Approve the re-appointment of Moore Kingston Smith as the Landscape Institute's auditors

The members voted to approve the re-appointment of Moore Kingston Smith as the Landscape Institute's auditors for the year 2024-25 with the summary vote as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
186	9	24

7 Questions & Answers

A Q&A session was co-ordinated by Rowena Lovell (RL), Board Secretary. The questions and responses, both written and verbal, are available online.

8 Update from Jonathan Ellis, Director of Membership & Professional Standards

The meeting noted a presentation from Jonathan Ellis (JE) the new Director of Membership & Professional Standards.

A full recording of the presentation and slides is available online and in summary outlined his plans to:

- Refresh the Institute's membership and education strategies and expand its careers work; strengthen its CPD support, and improve ways of working with branches
- Put member involvement at the heart of the new standing committees on Education, Membership and Standards.

9 Update from Belinda Gordon, Director of Policy & Public Affairs

The meeting noted a presentation from Belinda Gordon (BG) the new Director of Policy & Public Affairs.

A full recording of the presentation and slides is available online and in summary:

- The aim is to increase the Institute's visibility and influence and foster impactful partnerships, working collectively with members to tackle societal needs and environmental challenges.
- A phased plan for enhancing LI's external influence, prioritising decision-maker engagement and advocacy.
- Plans to develop a comprehensive action programme which prioritises impactful areas and delivery.
- Continue to implement the New Ways of Working programme
- Develop clear corporate and business strategies to align limited resources with priorities.
- Strengthen engagement and collaborative working with stakeholders and branches/members and put their views and needs at the heart of the new Public Policy and Public Affairs and Technical Standards standing committees.

10 Update: Carolin Göhler, President

The meeting noted an update from the President who reported on:

- How the LI New Ways of Working programme is building the foundations and frameworks needed to deliver on the Institutes objectives.

- We can lead key conversations by promoting a landscape-led approach to benefit people, place and nature - emphasising that none of this is possible without our continued work to build collaborative partnerships across the built environment and beyond.
- Working closely with LI practices and wider membership has continued to be at the forefront.
- The update reflected on innumerable meetings with members and visiting countless practices and seeing the positive contribution and value added by their work and taking on board feedback on how the LI can better support them and that.
- The LI is taking an increasingly proactive strategic approach to influence by strengthening its relationships with key organisations and building new partnerships.

A full recording of the presentation and slides is available online. In summary the President highlighted a number of personal aspirations for 2024-25:

- Working closely with the wider LI team and members, under our New Ways of Working programme
- Increasing engagement with Branches and the devolved nations
- Continuing to build and strengthen our partnerships with industry partners, Government and the public
- Promoting the Institute externally with a more targeted approach including at client level
- Launching our new Corporate Strategy in 2025, which will lead us to the LI's Centenary Year in 2029
- Working with all levels of membership to help drive our agenda on key issues
- Attracting the next generation into the profession, building our student network and expanding the routes into the profession
- Working collaboratively to address EDI.

11 Members questions and answers (Q&A) session

A Q&A session was co-ordinated by Rowena Lovell (RL), Board Secretary. The questions and responses, both written and verbal, are available online.

Meeting closed

There being no other business raised, and all notified business concluded the Chair closed the meeting at 18.14pm.

The link to the recording of the meeting, presentations and the report of Q&As and responses will be available on the LI website.