AGM minutes

THE INSTITUTION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

Minutes of the One Hundredth Annual General Meeting

The ONE HUNDREDTH Annual General Meeting of The Institution of Chemical Engineers was held as a fully virtual meeting on 14 June 2022.

PRESENT:
In addition to Ms L J Cutler (President) in the Chair, Professor I D L Bogle (Deputy President), Mr I J Martin (Honorary Treasurer) and Mr J L Prichard (Chief Executive), 52 Voting members of the Institution attended the meeting. 6 non-Voting members and 9 non-members were also in attendance

APOLOGIES for absence were received from three members (a further 47 members registered but did not join the meeting).

NOTICE:
The President welcomed all members to the One Hundredth Annual General Meeting, introduced those on the 'virtual' platform, declared a quorum present and the meeting formally open at 08:05. The Chief Executive then read the notice convening the meeting.

DEATHS:
Members observed a minute’s silence as a mark of respect for those members whose deaths had been recorded during the period 1 June 2021 and 31 May 2022. Particular mention was made of two of the Institution’s Past Presidents, Professor John Bridgwater and Dr Brian Street, who had both passed away during the previous 12 months.

MINUTES:
The motion was proposed by Professor Stephen Richardson that the minutes of the Ninety Ninth Annual General Meeting held on 14 June 2021 and published in the April 2022 issue of The Chemical Engineer, should be noted as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Ms Alexandra Meldrum before being put to the vote. The motion was carried (23 votes in support; 0 against; 1 abstention) and the President confirmed that the minutes were duly approved as a correct record.

ANNUAL REVIEW:
Reflecting on the Annual Review, the President was delighted with IChemE’s achievements during what had proved to be another challenging year, with Covid restrictions remaining throughout much of the year necessitating a continuation of the virtual operations commenced in 2020. She was proud of IChemE’s progress and ability to continue to deliver on the ambitious targets that had been included within Strategy 2024, and was excited by the steps taken towards supporting members regardless of their location through the delivery of many virtual activities and the expansion of online resources. The breadth of virtual activity and resources highlighted how important the Institution’s investment in digital solutions had been.

A number of long-running business change programmes had been concluded during the year which would provide the foundation for the Institution’s future success. One example had been the simplifying and broadening of the qualifications processes to ensure that the Institution could welcome into membership chemical engineers working in fields beyond those traditionally associated with the profession. Another completed programme had seen the implementation of a number of technical solutions in order to update and upgrade the Institution’s information systems. These changes would underpin the Institution’s ability in the future to provide focused and targeted knowledge products and services to those who needed them most, whatever it was members engaged in reducing society’s impact on the planet or those improving the health and wellbeing of the global population.

IChemE had attended the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November and had participated in the critical debate on how action on global climate change could be accelerated. This topic would remain a priority for IChemE into the future.

Turning to reserves, the Honorary Treasurer explained that they were complicated by both the pension deficit and restrictions placed on certain legacy income as well as the Institution’s wish to separate funds for specific purposes into designated funds.

In closing, the Honorary Treasurer confirmed that the Institution remained financially healthy despite the uncertainty over the previous two years. It had continued to invest to support delivery of its strategy and member benefits, and was in a position to continue this trend into the future, despite the uncertainties of rising inflation and the conflict in eastern Europe.

He thanked the Institution’s Finance & Business Director for her support over the previous four years and wished David Edwards success as he took over the role of Honorary Treasurer.
RESPONDING TO A REQUEST FROM MR KEITH PLUMB (F) FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THIS WAS ENDORSED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Mr Keith Plumb (F) wished to thank the Honorary Treasurer for his good work over the financial statements or report of Congress.

The President then asked for members' questions arising from the Annual Review.

Mr Hirst reported Congress had held four virtual sessions during the past year, with a focus on supporting the Institution through the next years. There had been continued backing of the staff at Rugby and he was pleased to report that the focus on supporting new members which had taken the total Congress membership to 28 out of 40 available seats.

Following the fourth Congress elections, Mr Hirst was pleased to welcome the nine new regional Board members who had continued. In particular Professor Maitland wished to thank Professor Stephen Richardson as he stepped down from the Board having completed his term as Immediate Past President of Congress. On behalf of IChemE's members, he expressed gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Past President, Honorary Officers, and retiring members of both the Board of Trustees and Congress.

A final mention was made of Mr Nigel Hirst who was retiring from Congress where he had served as Chair since its establishment in 2018, but who would now be taking on the role of Deputy President.

In concluding, Professor Maitland stressed that the generosity with which Trustees and members of Congress or volunteers gave of their time and effort to safeguard the Institution and ensure it delivered the objects set out in its Royal Charter should never be forgotten. He wished those retiring from office the joy of discovering other things to do with their rediscovered time, and to those who would be continuing in office or assuming a new office, they wished them every success in building still further on the achievements of the Institution.

CLOSURE:

The President, Professor I D L Bogle, declared the meeting closed at 08:43.