

Minutes of the AGM held at the Somerset College of Arts and Technology Conference Centre, 16th July 2005 at 3.30pm.

Committee Members Present: Cath Hassell (Chair), Chris Lord-Smith (Secretary), Chris Herring (Treasurer), Christine Armstrong, Nick Grant, Neill Lewis, Sally Starbuck, Pete Wilkinson.

Also present: members of AECB attending AGM.

AECB business.

- 1) Apologies: Sally Hall (Administrator), Tom Straker, and Carole Townsend.
- 2) AECB Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1st October 2003 to 31st September 2004 presented; approved and accepted by all present.
- 3) Minutes of AGM 2004 approved and accepted by all present.
- 4) The Auditors Keith Bridgeford and Co. were appointed for the following financial year.
- 5) Cath Hassell presented her report for the year; explaining how hard members of the committee had worked during the year and how she had stepped into the post following the appointment of Andy Simmonds as Executive officer. She pointed out how the AECB had been expanding the list of member benefits, how BFF would continue to be received by members, how network had been expanded and was now being received by the majority of members, the new members yearbook would be published by October 2005, the new look website, the new corporate identity was now established and the expanded list of members discounts now available. She asked individual committee members to expand on some of these topics.

Pete Wilkinson explained how negotiations were underway to produce a member's yearbook with complete listings of all members, published by the AECB with full editorial control. There would also be free expanded entries for those who wanted them to compensate members for not producing an AECB yearbook earlier to replace the Green Building Bible. The yearbook would be free to members and available to purchase by the public at a cover price being discussed at present.

Nick Grant explained the work that was underway and completed on the new web site and how the site was a tool for communicating with members and a means to discuss concepts and policy. It would be a democracy of ideas and debate and this was the purpose of the discussion forum. There would also be means for members to alter their details and also to market their services.

Chris Lord-Smith explained the process behind the recruitment of the Executive Officer and how important it had been to ensure that the position was advertised to members. He explained how 8 applications had been received with 4 applicants short-listed and how the interview process had been conducted. The standard of applicants had been extremely high and it had been a difficult task undertaken by the subgroup to reach a fair decision and also how the EO would be managed.

Neill Lewis explained the process of the listed membership for the association. That this would be a way for members to market themselves and explain what they had to offer along with examples of their work. Listed members would be able to expand their details on the website and in future issues of the yearbook and make claims about what they were able to offer.

There were concerns about those with out Internet access being left out but it was explained that this would not be a problem

Cath Hassell went on to explain her lobbying activities and how the AECB was becoming more influential with the decision and policy makers. The AECB's role in consultation on the revision of Part L was completed in Dec 04. There were a couple of meetings following the public consultation, which the AECB attended, mostly addressing technical requirements from the proposed changes. From April 2005 condensing boilers have been mandatory in all retrofit and new build situations. Exemptions in retrofit are expected to be as low as 4%. Part G of the Building Regs (Hygiene) is currently under review, and will address water conservation for the first time. Cath will be representing the AECB on the Building Regulations Advisory Committee. She has been working closely with the Sustainable Energy Partnership and they are currently lobbying for a Microgeneration Bill and a Climate Change Bill. The AECB also commented on various documents including the London Energy Strategy and the Decent Homes Strategy, the later intended to upgrade one million homes but at present with no requirement to improve energy efficiency or water conservation.

There were a few questions and observations that have been incorporated in to the details above. In addition concerns were raised over the increased cost of the event and how some members were finding it difficult to attend. It was explained that the last couple of events had made a small profit, that it was a speculative venture but costs had been and would in the future be kept to a minimum.

There was a vote of thanks to the subgroup that organised the AGM (Christine Armstrong, Chris Herring, Chris Lord-Smith and Sally Starbuck), all the speakers, the staff at the Somerset College of Arts and Technology Conference Centre, and the Caterers.

- 6) Thanks were given to Andy Simmonds for his work as chair prior to becoming EO, to David Olivier, Tom Straker and Carole Townsend who were not standing for the committee in the coming year.

It was explained how the committee members would become directors of the new limited company on the 1st October 2005 when the old association would be dissolved and the work taken over by the new company, the current directors of AECB Ltd were Andy Simmonds, Chris Herring (Treasurer) and Pete Wilkinson (Company Secretary).

It was explained that there were only 9 people standing for the committee this year so an election was not required, the committee being Christine Armstrong, Cath Hassell, Chris Herring, Nick Grant, Neill Lewis, Chris Lord-Smith, Penny Poyser, Sally Starbuck, Pete Wilkinson, the committee was duly approved by all present.

- 7) The following were approved as officers of the Committee Chris Herring (Chair), Chris Lord-Smith (Secretary), Christine Armstrong (Treasurer),