

RIBA CORNWALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location	Virtual (Online Teams Meeting)
Date of Meeting	17 June 2020, 13.00-14.15
Minutes prepared By	Jane Hamlyn
Purpose	Branch Meeting
Date	20 June 2020

Present

Claire Bower (CB)	RIBA SW Architectural Communities Co-ordinator
David Edmondson (DE)	Torbay Council/ Vice Chair (Joint)
Rachael Gaunt (RG)	PBWC Ltd/ South West Chair
Jane Hamlyn (JH)	Atelier 3 Ltd/ Secretary/ South West Chair Elect
Carl Harding (CH)	Stride Treglown
Jason Jarvis (JJ)	Create South West/ Chair
Mark Roberts (MR)	The Bazeley Partnership
Tony Smith (TS)	Lavigne Lonsdale
Ian Taylor (IT)	
Richard Tasic (RT)	Richard Tasic Architect/ Vice Chair (Joint)
Matt Wills (MW)	3HW Architecture & Design Ltd / Treasurer
Alastair Wilson (AW)	Stride Treglown

Apologies

Helen Brooks, Paul Melling, Joe Poynton, Jon Watkins

Distribution

RIBA Cornwall

MINUTES

1.0 Introductions and Format

- 1.1 JJ welcomed all to first RIBA Cornwall virtual branch meeting. This first meeting is a bit of an experiment in format and chance for people to catch up for the first time since lockdown began.
- 1.2 JJ invited attendees to introduce themselves to start the meeting.
- 1.3 The meeting was conducted using Microsoft Teams which seems to be the most widely used format by the RIBA at the moment. Zoom was also considered.

2.0 Updates from the RIBA

- 2.1 JH advised it is worth checking the Covid 19 pages on architecture.com for all the latest updates and support for members, including advice about grants and funding etc..
- 2.2 JH explained that work was underway by RIBA South West and Wessex changing planned events to make them virtual/online events but still keeping with the agreed theme of 'People Places Planet'. Initially working towards a forum type event on 30 July discussing projects from Cornwall, Exeter and Gloucestershire.
- 2.3 There will be a South West and Wessex forum for branch committees and RIBA representatives from across the region on 25 June. This will be a celebration of activities and a chance to see what other branches are doing.

3.0 Future of the Branch

- 3.1 JJ completes his two years as Cornwall Branch Chair in September so is looking for a Chair Elect to take over for 2020-2022.
- 3.2 JH will also stand down as Branch Secretary in September to take on the role of South West Regional Chair. She explained her current role which includes taking minutes, updating the website, some social media and producing the newsletters. Idea is to divide up tasks between a few people going forwards.
- 3.3 It was decided that an increased social media presence would be a good way to engage younger members of the branch. Therefore we wish to recruit a Social Media Representative to the committee. Currently we have a Twitter and Facebook account but no Instagram or LinkedIn.
- 3.4 JH suggested advertising the role on social media and will prepare a tweet/facebook post. MR may have someone in his office who could help with this.
- 3.5 Contacting the universities (Falmouth and Plymouth) to approach student members was discussed. CB has good links with both universities and could help with this.

4.0 Current Issues from Members

- 4.1 Feedback from members regarding the current status of practices is as follows:
 - Most people reported workloads have dropped, although a couple have remained busy
 - TS noted that productivity is down due to working from home, lack of problem solving support from studio environment slows down processes
 - Some people are partially reopening offices but majority are still working from home
 - Construction sites now mostly reopened but opinion is that social distancing is not being carried out very successfully

- Supply chain issues causing hold ups – plaster is one material in short supply and Perspex impossible to acquire
- Issues for students. Difficult to train new employees with little work experience when working from home. This year's graduates will likely struggle to find work.

5.0 Upcoming Events and Activities

- 5.1 RG elaborated on the People Places Planet agenda noting the event on 30 July. The idea is there will be events from each branch building towards a 3 day event in November.
- 5.2 Ideally each branch could hold an event in line with the agenda which could then be celebrated/featured as part of the November event so looking for ideas for a Cornwall branch event.
- 5.3 Looking for ideas to use LIF money. Perhaps invest in some digital media – films etc. possibly promoting the RIBA Awards shortlisted projects as 3 projects from Cornwall featured this year.
- 5.4 Could the CAT Lecture become a digital event? Pre-recording lecture with speaker online for Q&A at the end?
- 5.5 RG suggested an architectural jelly making competition.

6.0 Work Experience Competition

- 6.1 The Inette Austin-Smith Work Experience competition has had a few entries this year despite restrictions. It is considered not practical to judge the entries this year though. The matter was discussed and agreed to extend the competition to 2021 with judging happening then.

7.0 Any Other Business

- 7.1 Will there be a CAT Student Award this year? AW/JH agreed the CAT Trustees will need to discuss this. CAT may not be generating an income this year but should be sufficient funds.

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

- 8.1 To be in one month's time, Wednesday lunchtime and **hosted using Zoom**. This would be **Wednesday 15 July at 13.00**.
- 8.2 This will either be a 40 minute meeting using the free option or alternatively AW offered his account for a longer meeting. The idea of regular short efficient meetings could be desirable though.