

# Association for Project Management

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**Monday 11 November 2024, 10:30am - 11:30am**

**Held online, via MS Teams**

**Chair:** Yvonne Thompson, President

**Present:** Members viewing online (approx. 190)

**In attendance:** Board Chair (Milla Mazilu); Chief Executive (Adam Boddison); Deputy Chief Executive (Mark Hepworth); Company Secretary (Mike Robinson). The APM Leadership Team were in attendance.

**Apologies received:** David Cox

**Papers:** The following had been made available to all attendees: Notice of Meeting; Minutes of the 2023 AGM; 2023/24 Annual Report and Accounts.

### 1. Welcome, Apologies and President's Address

APM's Head of Communications, Matthew Johnson opened the meeting and outlined arrangements for asking questions. It was noted there would be a two-minute silence at 11am to mark Armistice Day.

The President, Yvonne Thompson, gave a warm welcome to everyone and outlined the agenda for the meeting. The session would be recorded and posted online. This was followed by introductions to the Board Chair Milla Mazilu, the Chief Executive Adam Boddison, the Deputy Chief Executive Mark Hepworth, and Company Secretary Mike Robinson. Apologies for absence were noted by the Company Secretary.

The President started by taking a moment to acknowledge and thank former President Sue Kershaw for her dedication and hard work throughout her tenure and expressed what an honour it is to follow Sue, as the second female President. The President highlighted a few of areas of focus, with the first being diversity. She noted how encouraging it has been to see the steps APM has taken to become more diverse, which is reflected in the continued success of events like the Women in Project Management Conference. However, she also emphasised the importance of continuing to bring diversity to the forefront, ensuring there is representation not just through gender or age, but also race, as the project profession continues to grow.

The President also highlighted the need for APM to embrace artificial intelligence (AI), not only as an organisation but to be the authority on the best ways that it can be used to improve all projects and programs. The final area of focus noted by the President was working environments, and the need for APM to help its members get the most out of their working environments. She gave a reminder that although there are many benefits of hybrid working, including the flexibility it offers people, the power of in person interactions should not be forgotten. The President would continue to encourage the profession and individual practitioners to have the right balance in their workplace.

The President paid tribute to APM's volunteer network noting their invaluable contributions throughout the year as a key factor of APM's success. She thanked APM members for their warm welcome, and for continuously inspiring APM to be better. Finally, the President vowed to keep advocating for members, the profession, and ultimately continue to drive project, programme and portfolio work forwards around the world.

## 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 November 2023

The minutes of the last AGM had been circulated. There were no comments or matters arising raised and the minutes were approved.

**Resolved: that the minutes of the 13 November 2023 AGM be approved as a correct record.**

## 3. Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24, Trustees' and Auditors' Reports

**The Board Chair**, Milla Mazilu, shared her thoughts and reflections on the milestones APM had achieved since becoming a member of the board in 2016. Individual membership has grown from 23,000 to 45,000 with 470 Corporate partnerships also reached. There has been a significant increase in engagement with government and APMs international reach had grown, with new Regional Interest Networks being set up in strategic regions such as the Middle East and Ireland. Since being awarded the Royal Charter in 2017, there were now over 4,000 Chartered Project Professionals (ChPPs). APM also celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during this time, which included a series of initiatives, and an organisational re-brand. The Chair noted that APM took pride in being an outstanding professional body, which had been recognised by being awarded 'Outstanding' in the Best Companies awards.

The Chair shared what a privilege it had been to host some of the annual volunteers' awards, launched in 2017 to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions from the volunteer community, and personally thanked the volunteers for their ongoing support. She also highlighted the overwhelming success of flagship events including the APM annual conference which most recently had over 500 attendees across each of the two days. The increasingly popular Women in Project Management Conference had sold-out in 2024 and the prestigious APM Awards continued to reflect APM's commitment to recognizing excellence, innovation, and achievement within the profession.

Finally, the Board Chair expressed her confidence in APMs continued growth, particularly in the Chartered Project Professional standard becoming the internationally recognised benchmark for project practitioners. She thanked all for their support over the past 8 years.

**The Chief Executive**, Prof Adam Boddison OBE, outlined the principal achievements during 2023/24. This had been APMs most successful revenue year to date with approximately £16million, and growth was expected to continue into 2025. Over 25,000 exams had been sat – the most ever in a single year. The new pathway to Chartered (ChPP), and the new Project Management Qualification (PMQ) launched in September 2024 and played a part in the overall evolution of APM improving accessibility and inclusion for all. The Chief Executive extended his thanks to the volunteer community for their continued dedication. Individual membership continued to increase each year, finishing 2023/24 at over 45,000. For the first time, the members review report has been published as an interactive document, and feedback on this was welcomed. Looking ahead to 2025, the Chief Executive advised APM would publish the latest edition of the Body of Knowledge, continue to invest in employees by giving them more opportunities to support worthy causes through volunteering and charitable work, and continue to pursue the 1-10-100<sup>2</sup> ambition of: 1,000 Corporate Partners, 10,000 Chartered Project Professionals, 100,000 individual members, and 100,000 qualifications per year.

**The Deputy Chief Executive** presented financial highlights from the 2023/24 annual report and accounts. As mentioned by the Chief Executive, 2023/24 was the third consecutive year of double-digit growth with £16.2m generated, an increase of 18%. The growth in income exceeded the increase in expenditure therefore allowing reserves spent in the previous year on strategic projects, to be rebuilt. The reserves range had been increased to a level more appropriate to the size of organisation APM has become. This was aided by a positive year for financial investments. The balance sheet remained strong with net funds of £7.4m. Overall income increased by £2.4m in the year, led by qualifications which had grown by 20% and accounted for 60% in the rise of overall revenue. The cost of delivery had increased by £1m (7%) mainly due to inflation which was over 10% at the start of the year. Staff headcount had also increased by 8% to support strategic priorities.

**Resolved: that the Annual Accounts of the Association for Project Management for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the Report of the Trustees and the Auditors' Report were received.**

## 4. APM Trustee Elections

The Company Secretary reported the results of the 2024 Board election. APM had seen another strong field of 18 candidates and achieved a sound turnout of 15.3%. Under the Charter and Regulations, the election was undertaken as a poll vote with the ballot delivering proxies to the AGM. Lisa Martello, Sue Simmonite and Duncan Ross Russell had been elected to the Board for a period of three years. The Company Secretary congratulated the new Trustees and thanked all those who had participated. The full results are below.

**Resolved: the three candidates receiving the highest votes were affirmed as trustees.**

| RESULT                     |       | 3 to elect |
|----------------------------|-------|------------|
| Lisa MARTELLO              | 1,036 | ELECTED    |
| Sue SIMMONITE              | 797   | ELECTED    |
| Duncan ROSS RUSSELL        | 505   | ELECTED    |
| Andrew KELLEHER            | 462   |            |
| Damien OLIVER              | 432   |            |
| Laura JACKSON PUGH         | 412   |            |
| Jude IBODJE                | 376   |            |
| Flavia - Alexandra POPESCU | 366   |            |
| David HUGHES               | 353   |            |
| Amos HANIFF                | 337   |            |
| Deb HOPKINS-HURT           | 335   |            |
| Daniel KING                | 328   |            |
| Vijay K. LUTHRA            | 281   |            |
| Richard MCCAFFREY          | 232   |            |
| Andrew SCHUSTER            | 171   |            |
| Vikram MARWAHA             | 162   |            |
| Suresh SADANANDAN          | 157   |            |
| Seyed Hossein NOURI        | 98    |            |

|                                            |       |        |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Number of eligible voters:                 |       | 17,560 |
| Votes cast online:                         | 2,682 |        |
| Total number of votes cast:                |       | 2,682  |
| Turnout:                                   |       | 15.27% |
| Number of votes found to be invalid:       |       | 0      |
| Total number of valid votes to be counted: |       | 2,682  |

## 5. Members' Questions

The Chief Executive noted that four written member questions had been submitted in advance. Answers were available in the slides for the meeting. He outlined the responses prepared on how APM is expanding to support growth; APM diversity monitoring; gender and ethnic diversity across APM volunteer activities; number of student members.

Further questions from those present were then invited and taken as follows:

- It was queried whether APM had signed the Armed Forces Covenant. The CEO advised this had not yet been signed, however, APM had longstanding relationships with the MoD and the individual forces. The CEO would take forward signing the covenant.
- There was a request for an update on the core competence framework and potential assessment routes from Sept 2025. The CEO advised the competence framework would be reviewed after the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Body of Knowledge was published. Efforts were made to ensure both standards aligned.
- It was queried whether the election voting turnout was sufficiently high at around 15%. The Company Secretary noted APM's election scrutineers advised that average turnout for similar membership organisations is between 5-25%. APM therefore benchmarked well and was also pleased with the calibre and numbers of candidates. All were encouraged to vote and share the need to do so amongst their peers.
- Further detail on APM's international plans was requested. The CEO advised that APM was proactive in this space. APM was pushing for Chartership to become the global standard. Recent events organised by the volunteer community had been held in Peru and Canada, and

APM planned to introduce two new international regional networks each year.

- Further details on APM's educational outreach programme were requested. The CEO advised the vast majority of APM's work took place at universities to support those completing project management courses and research. However, staff and volunteers also attend events at schools to educate young people on opportunities in the project profession.

The Head of Communications thanked members for their insightful questions.

## **6. Closing Remarks**

The President closed by thanking the attendees for their input, engagement, and support.

The Board Chair thanked the departing trustees Yetunde Adeshile, Emma Carroll-Walsh and Sorrel Gilbert for their support as trustees. She congratulated re-elected board member Sue Simmonite and welcomed new board members Lisa Martello and Duncan Ross Russell. She thanked Paul Chapman and Sue Kershaw for their support as Vice President and President. She welcomed Antonio Nieto Rodriguez and Alistair Godbold as new Vice Presidents, and Yvonne Thompson as President. She thanked all for attending what had been an excellent meeting; it was good to see such interest.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_