Minutes of the 1st Science in Public Annual General Meeting

University of Kent at Canterbury, 15th July 2016

Present: (Ctte.) Angela Cassidy, Rebekah Higgitt, Fern Elsdon-Baker, plus conference attendees
Apologies: (Ctte.) Hauke Riesch, Sarah Davies, Ann Grand, Richard Holliman, Warren Pearce, Emma Weitcamp, Helen Pallet

1) **Introduction to SiP**

   Angela Cassidy (AC) introduced the history of 'Science and the Public'/'Science in Public' and the formation of the Network.

   Progress update since 2015

   We decided to turn SiP from an informal organisation into an unincorporated association (equivalent of a local rotary or sports club) in 2015. SiP was officially formed at this year's PCST conference in April in Istanbul: the minutes of that meeting and our constitution can now be found on the website.

2) **SiP Committee and organisation**

   New committee members. Leucha Vaneer (UCLAN) and Steve Cross (Science Showff) agreed to become Practice members, while James Riley (Newman University) and Kanta Dihal (Oxford University) agreed to become PG members. Welcome!

   Advisory Board? It was agreed that a formal group who meet and have decionmaking power seemed excessive, but having some way to publicly acknowledge and draw upon the links we have with other organisations such as BSHS and PCST would be helpful. Leucha Vaneer has volunteered to liase with these bodies to draw up a formal Advisory Board list.

   Membership or a Directory? AC explained our earlier reasoning for not making SiP a Membership organisation: that we don't have the resources, and that it goes against the spirit of the group as an open, cross-disciplinary meeting space. The meeting agreed, and decided that building an online Research Directory would be the best way of acknowledging the wider membership of the Network.

   Other jobs that need doing? Several of these were discussed.

   - Revamping the SiP website (https://scienceinpublic.org/). Alex Hall (Newman) has offered to take this on, on the proviso that someone else maintain it afterwards.
   - ***Communications (public announcements) and social media***. We currently have a JISCMAIL list (~230 members) but it needs to be managed in order to come to life. At present we don't use other social media but this could be explored in future.
   - Research directory: building this e.g. from lists of conference delegates and then making it accessible online, perhaps with the help of a wiki format so the work could be distributed.
   - Advisory Board – liaising with other organisation and drawing up a list to put up online.
   - In the longer term, exploring potential funding sources and preparing grant applications.

3) Finances

Current state of SiP funds. AC explained that SiP accidentally made a profit during the 2012 UCL conference, and that the money has circulated between host institutions ever since. The difficulties of arranging these transfers has been a significant driver towards formalising the organisation, so we can gain direct control over the fund. At present the SiP fund is being held in a project account at UWE, and is approximately £1200.

Bank Account. Our Treasurer Warren Pearce is in the process of setting up a Co-Operative Bank Community Account – there are a few more administrative details to sort out, but it should be up and running soon.

4) Conference hosting: proposals for 2017 and 2018

At present, we do not have confirmed local organising teams for the 2017 and 2018 conferences. We do, however, have several groups interested in hosting 2017, including Brunel, Sheffield and Glasgow; and at least two who are considering 2018 (Manchester and Newman/Warwick).

The Committee therefore invites all interested parties, in either 2017 or 2018 (or even 2019), to submit a brief (400-500 word) proposal by the **29th July 2016, (i.e. in two weeks' time).** It should include the following details.

- Proposed host institution(s) and which year you are interested in.
- Core organising team, and the research group(s), department(s) they belong to.
- Likely venue and possibilities for delegate accommodation.
- Sources of organisational and financial support - this can be 0 (and has been in the past!).
- Links with other organisations, either research or practice oriented.
  For general inforomation, in 2014 the PCST (Public Communication of Science & Technology Network http://www.pcst.co/) ran their biennial summer school in the week before the SiP conference, and would like to do so again in 2017. Similarly, this year the BSHS (British Society for the History of Science) sponsored the conference, which we are highly appreciative of. We'd like to hear local organisers' thoughts on continuing these relationships and building new ones.
- Ideas on potential conference themes - see https://scienceinpublic.org/conference/ for past examples.

The Committee will then collectively look at the proposals and convene online to make a decision by mid-August 2016.

5) AOB

Greg Radick and Patricia Fara of BSHS attended the SiP AGM. Greg extended his congratulations to the local team for a well organised and exciting multidisciplinary conference, and to the Network for fostering its ongoing existence. He also pointed out that BSHS offers financial support to events on a regular, annual basis, and invited SiP to prepare an application for these funds: http://www.bshs.org.uk/conferences/bshs-support-for-events .

Finally, Fern Elsdon-Baker extended her thanks to Angela for keeping the network going!