



**PITA**

# **Paper Industry Technical Association**

PO Box 721, Bury, BL8 9UZ, United Kingdom

Dear Member,

**Notice** is hereby given that the:

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** of the **Paper Industry Technical Association (PITA)**,

(a Company Limited by Guarantee (*Company Number: 04300838*))

& a Registered Charity (*Charity Number: 1093335*))

will be held Virtually

on

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022** commencing at 12:00 hours

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

- 1)** Apologies for Absence
- 2)** Approval of Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting
- 3)** Chairman's Report
- 4)** Adoption of Chairman's Report and presentation of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020
- 5)** Election of Directors
  - a)** Election of National Chairman
  - b)** Election of Deputy Chairman
  - c)** Re-Election of Financial Director
- 6)** Appointment of Accountants
- 7)** Any Other Business

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Company Limited by Guarantee (Number 4300838) / Registered Charity (Number 1093335)  
Registered Office: Tower House, 269 Walmersley Road, Bury, BL9 6NX, United Kingdom



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## 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held online, Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 12.07 hrs

### MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Mr Tony Foulds tendered his apologies via email.

2. **Approval of Minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (online) were available to Members prior to the meeting.

Voting for Approval:

**Proposed: Helen Dolan**

**Seconded: John Kirby**

**No objections**

3. **Adoption of Chairman's Report and Accounts for 2020**

Mr John Kirby, the National Chairman, read his report to the meeting a copy of which was printed in the 2021/2022 PITA Annual Review.

Mr Read then commented upon the Accounts for 2020.

Voting for adoption of both reports:

**Proposed: Barry Read**

**Seconded: Daven Chamberlain**

**No objections**

4. **Election of Directors**

**A: Election of National Chairman**

Mr Barry Read thanked Mr John Kirby for his diligent service during his term of office.

Mr Kirby suggested Mr Stephen Hutt as National Chairman.

Voting for Approval:

**Proposed: John Kirby**

**Seconded: Graham Moore**

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**B: Election of Financial Director**

Mr Barry Read informed the meeting that Mr Hutt is happy to continue as Financial Director alongside his role as National Chairman.

Voting for Approval:

**Proposed: Barry Read**

**Seconded: Daven Chamberlain**

**No objections**

**C: Mass Re-Election of Directors**

Mr Barry Read proposed block re-election of the remaining Directors of the Association namely:

Mr Tim Klemz

Dr Graham Moore

Mr Martin Wroe

Voting for Approval:

**Proposed: Barry Read**

**Seconded: Helen Dolan**

**No objections**

**5. Re-Appointment of Auditors**

Mr Barry Read recommended Horsfield and Smith continue as Auditors for the Association.

Voting for Approval:

**Proposed: Barry Read**

**Seconded: Stephen Hutt**

**No objections**

**6. Any Other Business**

There being no other business to report or discuss the meeting closed at 12:27hrs.

**Helen Dolan**

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**



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I started last year's message with a commentary on the virus that has affected all of our lives so profoundly over the last two years. During this time we have learnt a whole new vocabulary (from "asymptomatic" and "anti-vaxxer" to "social distance" and "self-isolation") and come to accept as 'normal' restrictions that were previously unimaginable. It certainly wasn't what we hoped for during 2020 (our centenary year!) and, perhaps naively, we had not anticipated that these restrictions would be in place at the end of 2021 and (now it would seem) beyond.

At the same time we have all adopted new living and working conditions, and here I am delighted to note that, despite unpredictable trading conditions, your Association has learnt how to adapt, and despite the odd setback, has put in a very creditable performance, resulting in some outstanding financial results which we will reveal at the postponed AGM early in 2022.

Despite the restrictions, we have maintained all paper publications – in which, over the last year, we have produced many important original articles – and at the same time have increased our digital footprint, maintained the increased frequency of newsletters, added another edition of PAPERmaking! and have worked on a new website dedicated to our flagship publication, which we plan to launch early in the New Year.

We also heeded the call for more (distanced) training and ran both online events and, towards the end of the year, our first face-to-face course since March 2020. We even hosted a new course, offered by one of our corporate members (MCP), aimed at New Engineering Managers, and in so doing welcomed participants from the Middle East – proof that when the offering is good, people are willing to make the extra effort needed, which, in the case of our Saudi colleagues meant staying an extra 3 hours in the evening in the office due to the time difference.

In addition to our normal activities PITA has taken a leading role with not one, but two Government-funded research projects. In last year's report, I introduced work on "Digital Twinning" that a consortium, headed by PITA, has been undertaking at Smurfit Kappa Townsend Hook mill. To say the work has not been easy would be an understatement! COVID-restrictions have time and again delayed targets, prevented visits and postponed completion at a time when the mill has been under incredible pressure to produce paper, yet we have continued on and in so doing have shown extremely positive results. We have already achieved a 2% reduction in steam usage in one section of the dryers and anticipate around a 5% saving in steam use throughout the drying section. This project should end in early 2022, and we plan in due course to present the findings in PTI.

Much more recently, a second larger project ("HiFib") has commenced, working with our colleagues at Axchem, DS Smith and Renaissance Chemicals looking at methods of producing highly-fibrillated cellulose fibres from readily available sources of fibre available in the UK. Here I hesitate to use words such as 'nano' and 'micro' both of which have rigid definitions – rather, the aim is to reduce production costs of these very small but highly fibrillated fibres that have a known strengthening effect on sheets. Other partners include academics and engineering specialists with expertise in the exploitation of Agricultural Residues.

Digital Twinning or Highly Fibrillated Fibres – in both projects PITA is working on ideas that will have immediate, practical benefits to our members. As we near the end of our 101st year, it pleases me to say that PITA remains as relevant as it was over one hundred years ago.

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As I come to the end of my tenure as National Chairman I would like to thank Helen, Daven and Barry for their continued hard work, and my fellow Board members for the help and support they continue to show the Association. I will be standing down at the next AGM, but as I leave office I am proud to report that the Association remains in remarkably good health, with our core activities (publication and dissemination of information, and training) continuing positively, while our research activities are leading us into exciting new territories.

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking you, our membership, for your continued support over the last year. Ultimately, as a Membership Association, it is for your benefit, and the PITA staff are here to help, so if you feel there are more ways in which PITA can aid you to engage with your customers (or for mill members, your suppliers), just drop them a line.

**John Kirby (PITA National Chairman)**

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