

Kamra tal-Periti

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kamra tal-Periti for 2021 held online on February 15th 2022.

AGENDA

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Welcome Address by the Hon. Secretary
Reading and Approval of Minutes AGM 2020
Reading and Approval of Minutes EGM 2021
President's Report
Matters Arising
Presentation and Approval of Accounts
Other Motions
Elections
Concluding Remarks

MINUTES

Welcome Address by the Hon. Secretary

The meeting was opened by Perit Amber Wismayer who welcomed the members present. She reminded them that the AGM had been postponed to this date by a decision of the EGM. The Agenda would include only the statutory items which are required of the AGM. An EGM would be held in the near future to explain in more detail what the Council is working on, and its proposals for the coming year.

Reading and Approval of Minutes AGM 2020

The minutes of the previous AGM have been made available on the Kamra's website and all members have received a link to these minutes by email. Dr Amber Wismayer presented a motion, seconded by Perit Andre Pizzuto for the minutes to be approved. The motion is as follows:

MOTION 1:

It is proposed that the minutes of the Kamra tal-Periti 2020 Annual General Meeting, held on 10th December 2020, which had been made available to members, be taken as read and approved.

A vote was taken by online poll and the motion was approved with 33 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

Reading and Approval of Minutes EGM 2021

The minutes of the EGM have been made available on the Kamra's website and all members have received a link to these minutes by email. Dr Amber Wismayer presented a motion, seconded by Perit Andre Pizzuto for the minutes to be approved. The motion is as follows:

MOTION 2:

It is proposed that the minutes of the Kamra tal-Periti 2021 Extraordinary General Meeting, held on 15th December 2021, which had been made available to members, be taken as read and approved.

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Perit Anton Valentino stated that he did not feel that he could vote as he was not present at the meeting. Perit Pizzuto replied that in this case, he could abstain by not registering a preference. A vote was taken by online poll and the motion was approved with 31 votes in favour, none against and one abstention.

President's Report

Perit Andre Pizzuto thanked the members for their presence. He reported on the activities of the Council since the previous AGM and also on important developments which have a bearing on the Profession. The start of his presidency coincided with the tabling of two major pieces of legislation which have a direct and significant impact on the profession. These are the Periti Act and the Building and Construction Authority Act.

Despite years of discussion, the Periti Act remained un-concluded at the start of the Parliamentary process, with many aspects of the draft still in contention, particularly the role of the Kamra in relation to conduct, the issue of mandatory insurance and the liability period. At the same time the European Commission had escalated its legal sanctions on Malta. As a result, the Kamra had been unable to proceed with the modernisation of the Profession. The Council started out by providing detailed research and proposed amendments to the speaker. This was followed by difficult negotiations with the Ministry and in the Parliamentary Committee on the wording of the Bill in the period leading to the final passage of the Act through Parliament. Perit Pizzuto thanked all those who had contributed to this momentous achievement for the Profession, including the Councils of the past 14 years and in particular Profs Alex Torpiano, Perit Vince Cassar, Perit David Felice, Perit Damian Vella Lenicker and Perit Simone Vella Lenicker.

The Building and Construction Authority Act, which the Council had to deal with concurrently, presented its own specific challenges. Issues of concern included failure to distinguish between building and construction regulations, the poorly defined structures of the authority and the power to delegate regulatory functions outside the Authority. Following action taken by Council most of these concerns were addressed through amendments to the Bill before the Act was approved on the 24th of March.

The Council was then heavily involved in the drafting of the first tranche of subsidiary legislation needed for bringing the Periti Act into force. The Council was also involved in several meetings with the BCA and BICC in relation to the Building and Construction Regulations, however the Council is still not in agreement with the regulatory framework as currently proposed.

The Council held a very well attended conference to inform the members of the Profession of the provisions of the Periti Act.

Besides the focus on the legislation, the Council also worked on the organisation of the Kamra itself. The measures taken included:

- The setting up of six permanent committees, answerable to Council, to which Council delegated specific areas of policy, namely Architecture, Engineering, Planning, Heritage, Business Management and Property. Each of the Committees has its own chairperson who was given a free hand regarding structure and membership.
- The setting up of a College of Past presidents with the role of guiding the Council on the development of the Profession particularly in relation to the Periti Act, Ethics, the Warranting Board and European Directives.
- Changes in the way Council meetings are held, and their frequency. In all 47 meetings were held which is a record, besides the online communications between the meetings. There were also separate meetings of the Executive which consists of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Past-President, mainly for everyday administrative and logistical decisions.

- A new operating procedure for conduct cases. Substantial progress has been made in tackling the backlog. The new procedures will ensure a smooth transition when the Professional Conduct Board is set up in terms of the new Periti Act.
- Launching of the new brand Identity of the Kamra, reflecting the renewal process. Perit Pizzuto explained the meaning behind the new logo

The reorganisation of the Kamra is just one facet of the Kamra's Renewal Agenda which focuses on the Profession, the Built Environment and the Industry itself.

Matters Arising

No interventions were made

Presentation and Approval of Accounts

Perit Iyvonne Grixti, treasurer of the Kamra, presented the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2021. The Income and Expenditure account showed a loss of €25,818 for the year, including an adjustment of €5,558 due to a change of accounting system. The loss is similar to that of the previous year, however there was a substantial increase in income. The increases in income were from Events and Activities, and Sponsorships. The increase in expenditure was mainly in salaries. Perit Grixti explained that this was mainly due to the employment of a General Manager for six months as had been announced in the previous AGM. He also presented the Balance Sheet, and appealed for periti to pay their membership fees as these were essential for the Kamra to function.

Perit Wismayer asked if there were any remarks or questions in relation to the Accounts. There were no interventions from the floor. Perit Iyvonne Grixti presented a motion, seconded by Perit Andre Pizzuto, for the Accounts to be approved.

MOTION 3:

It is proposed that the financial statements for 2021, presented during this Annual General Meeting, are approved.

A vote was taken by online poll and the motion was approved with 36 votes in favour, none against and nine abstentions.

Perit Grixti noted that the Accounts were audited. He thanked the Kamra's accountant Antonio Grech, who has helped with the Kamra's accounts for the past ten years, as well as the auditor, Silvio Muscat. Mr Grech and Mr Muscat have asked to be released from this assignment, and therefore the AGM is being asked to confirm the engagement of a new auditor. Mr Grech thanked the Council for the work together in the previous ten years. It had been an interesting and positive process. He explained that, after ten years, they considered that it would be healthy for the Kamra to have a change of auditor.

Perit Andre Pizzuto noted that Perit Grixti, as treasurer, had obtained quotations from three different audit firms, and the Council selected one. Perit Iyvonne Grixti presented the following motion, seconded by Perit Andre Pizzuto, for this decision to be endorsed.

MOTION 4:

Whereas Mr Silvio Muscat has expressed his wish not to be re-appointed as Auditor for the Kamra tal-Periti for the period 2021-2022;

Now, therefore, this General Meeting appoints Mr Andrew Ellul as Auditor for the Kamra tal-Periti for the period 2021-2022.

Perit David Pace also proposed to record a vote of thanks to the outgoing auditor. A vote was taken by online poll and the motion was approved with 40 votes in favour, none against and six abstentions. Perit Andre Pizzuto welcomed Mr Andrew Ellul as the new auditor. Mr. Ellul thanked the Kamra and looked forward to providing the services of auditor for the coming year. Perit Pizzuto on behalf of the Council, joined with Perit Pace in thanking Mr Muscat for his work and also Mr. Grech for his contribution over the last ten years.

Other Motions

No motions were proposed from the floor.

Elections

Perit Wismayer noted that there were five vacant positions, that of the Hon Secretary and four members who will replace members whose terms had expired, namely Perit Lara Brincat, Perit Ivynne Grixti, Perit Sandro Cini and Perit Damian Vella Lenicker. Three nominations were received for the post of member: Perit Lara Brincat, Perit Ivynne Grixti and Perit Damian Vella Lenicker. No nomination was received for the post of Hon. Secretary. Since there were only three nominations for 4 posts of member, Perit Wismayer proposed an endorsement of the three members rather than an election. An online poll was held, allowing members to endorse one or more of the candidates or none. There were 38 endorsements for Perit Brincat, 36 for Perit Grixti and 38 for Perit Damian Vella Lenicker, out of a total of 43 members present, and all three were therefore considered elected. This left one position of member vacant as well as the post of Hon. Secretary. Perit Pizzuto invited anyone interested in forming part of Council to come forward. In reality, two members are needed and then Council could then decide on who to appoint as Hon Secretary. The matter will be brought up again at the EGM which will be held shortly in an effort to fill the vacant positions.

Concluding Remarks

Perit Pizzuto asked if there were any questions or if anyone present wanted to make some final comment.

Perit Simone Vella Lenicker noted that the year had not been an easy one. Apart from the heavy workload which Perit Pizzuto had spoken about, arising from the Periti Act and also from the commitment taken by Council to reduce the backlog of conduct cases, there were the usual consultations by Government which the Council had to respond to and which, this year, were particularly demanding. She proposed a motion of thanks to Perit Pizzuto, who was leading the Council through this difficult time. She expressed her disappointment that there were not more candidates for Council, and encouraged others to come forward in order to contribute to the advancement of the profession, either within Council or otherwise.

Perit Wismayer concurred with Perit Vella Lenicker and added that members should not hesitate to contact the Council to give feedback, not necessarily waiting for the Council to consult them.

Perit Pizzuto closed the meeting, thanking the members present and looked forward to seeing them at the EGM which would be announced within a few weeks.