

WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Wednesday 15th February 2017 at the Abbot Hall Social Club, Kendal

The Society's President, Dr Emrys Phillips, opened the meeting and welcomed approximately 30 members.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Susan Beale, Bob Entwistle, Peter Standing and Pam Wilson.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2016 were taken as read. There were no matters arising.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer reported that the Society had again made a surplus last year. Income, mostly from subscriptions was generally predictable as were most items of expenditure. Expenses for visiting leaders and speakers could vary quite widely and were difficult to budget for. However, the Society now had substantial reserves and could easily cover any unexpected costs.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary thanked Audrey Brown for taking up the reins as Chairman for the year just ending and for the energy and enthusiasm she had shown.

The Society had enjoyed its usual range of outdoor and indoor activities, although a combination of road works and church bells had brought Geoff Brambles' description of the building stones of the parish church to a premature end.

Problems on the computer front meant that the distribution of Newsletters and other documents to members had been somewhat erratic. Another problem had been the delays to the extension at the Abbot Hall Social Club which had necessitated in finding an alternative home at the Castle Street Community Centre for some meetings.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman reported on some changes she had initiated to Committee procedures during the past year. Meetings were now held in a hired hall, making them more business-like and job descriptions of committee members had been made more specific. She also thanked the officers for their continuing efforts in keeping the society functioning and arranging lectures and field trips. She floated the idea of running some basic geology classes and asked for other suggestions for other activities the Society might become involved in.

Finally she thanked Melville Thomson and Geoff Brambles who had produced the Society's Proceedings for the past two decades and who had raised the standard of the publication to a very high level. As they had both decided that it was time to retire she

presented each of them with a gift from the Society in recognition of their contributions.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

a) **President.** Emrys Phillips announced that he had decided to stand down as President after five years in the office. There were no nominations for a replacement.

b) **Chairman.** As Dr Brown was standing down, the Committee had nominated Chris Anderson to succeed to this position. This was agreed.

c) **Editor.** As Geoff Brambles was standing down, the Committee nominated Vic Parsons for this position. This was agreed.

d) **Committee Member.** Ann Allwright's term of office came to an end after 3 years. The Committee nominated Gwyneth Lindley Jones for this position. This was agreed.

e) **Independent Examiner.** As Peter Standing, together with Ann Allwright, had agreed to take over from Melville Thomson in producing the Proceedings, Peter wished to stand down from the role of Independent Examiner. John Wood was nominated for this position and this was agreed.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Vic Parsons referred to the decision to cease running long weekend trips. He said that a Society of our stature should be capable of organising such trips and that this was a retrograde step.

b) Audrey drew attention to some Cumbria Geoconservation leaflets which she had brought along to the meeting.

c) As the President's term of office was drawing to a close the retiring chairman thanked Emrys for his contribution both in this role and in leading several field trips during the time that he had been a member of the Society and she presented him with a gift from the Society. Emrys thanked Audrey and said that he was continuing to be a member and we would no doubt be seeing him again in the future.