

WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th May 2017 Castle Street Centre, Kendal

Present:	Christine Anderson	Chairman
	Audrey Brown	Vice President
	Brian Kettle	Secretary
	John Fairhurst	Treasurer
	Michael Coates	Field Secretary
	Ray Wilson	Winter Lectures Secretary
	Vic Parson	Editor
	Bob Entwistle	Committee Member
	Gwynneth Lindley-Jones	Committee member

1. APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTION

Apologies were received from Kath Alty.

The Chairman welcomed new member, Gwynneth Lindley-Jones, and new Editor, Vic Parsons.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2017 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The new Chairman said that she envisaged a small but active Committee with everyone playing a significant role. She hoped that more members would become involved in the Society's activities e.g. helping to do write-ups with an experienced mentor. Vacancies on the Committee should be advertised well in advance so people have time to consider putting their name forward. Committee papers should be sent out in advance of meetings, rather than tabled. It was agreed that minutes of meetings would be put on the website, for all members to view.

ACTION BK

Website: Ann Allwright had asked for some back-up with the Society website. Bob Entwistle agreed to take on this role. The next newsletter will also include a piece asking if any member is interested.

ACTION CA

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Abbot Hall Social Centre: The Secretary reported that work on the extension at Abbot Hall had again been delayed but that the foundations were now being dug. It was hoped that the building should be ready by the end of July.

Projector: Chris Brown had repaired the projector and had recommended purchasing a new bulb which would cost £23.99. However it was now uncertain how long it would last and he had agreed to bring his own projector to meetings as back-up. The Secretary had also enquired about hiring a projector and had established that there was one available for hire at the Castle Street Centre for £11. At Abbot Hall there was a projector belonging to U3A and as the Secretary was a U3A member it would be possible to use it free of charge if the

Society's projector broke down. It was agreed to authorise Chris Brown to purchase a new bulb. ACTION BK

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that expenditure so far this year was slightly up compared with last year, mainly because the cost of producing the Proceedings had risen. Income was about the same; 96 members had paid up so far, two payments had been delayed by standing order problems and two people had yet to pay. He saw no reason to contemplate raising subscriptions as the Society had adequate reserves. It was noted that after many years of membership, Euan Clarkson has resigned his membership as well as from his position of Vice President.

7. FIELD SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Field Secretary reported that the two field trips which had taken place so far this year had been successful with reasonable attendance and good weather. Car sharing arrangements had led to two cars from Kendal being filled for the May field trip. It was agreed that car sharing should be initiated earlier especially for the trip to Spireslack Geopark on 1st July.

Weekend Field Trips: In view of his comments at the previous AGM, Vic Parsons was invited to make the case for the Society resuming its policy of organising one long trip each year. He said that the Society offered a trip to somewhere further afield involving overnight stays of two or more nights almost every year since 1976 and that these had been very popular, sometimes involving 30 or more members and their partners. In recent years numbers attending had fallen and only 4 had applied to join the proposed trip to mid-Wales in 2015, which had therefore been cancelled. He was aware that some other societies were experiencing less interest in trips of this nature but some others were well supported and 'Down to Earth' magazine ran several such trips each year. He felt that a Society of our stature should try again to run longer trips, possibly in conjunction with another Society. There was then a discussion about why interest in longer trips had declined – was it due to an aging membership or did the reason lie in the nature of the trips being offered. Might a mid-week trip be more popular than a week-end one? Did people need more advance notice of dates? It was agreed that the Society should attempt to organise a trip for 2018 – ideas put forward included Mull, mid-Wales, Nottinghamshire and south Derbyshire, West Cumberland and Bute. Once a leader and location had been identified the trip should be heavily promoted to drum up support. It was agreed that Vic and Mike Coates should be tasked with coming up with a proposal at the next committee meeting. ACTION VC & MC

8. WINTER LECTURE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Winter Lecture Secretary reported that he had almost completed the programme for the 2018-9 season and was now beginning to plan for the following year.

Pre-Lecture meals: The meals before lectures had attracted ten, nine & eight people, respectively. It was felt that these numbers were reasonable. However, assuming that lectures would be in the Abbot Hall SC from October, it was suggested that The Moon might be a more appropriate venue. ACTION CA

9. PROCEEDINGS

a. *Write-ups:* The Editor said that Mel Thomson had given him a copy of a document entitled "Notes for Authors" which he thought would be useful for members undertaking write-ups. He said that he hoped that authors would report on their experiences of a trip

rather than attempt an academic paper. The following write-ups were agreed for the remainder of the summer field trips:-

June 28th - Jacobs Join – Brian Kettle

July 1st - Spireslack Geopark – Vic Parsons

July 30th - Glenridding – Vic Parsons

Sept 3rd - Seathwaite Fell – Clive Boulter

10. NEW PRESIDENT

The Chairman said that the Society should now be actively looking for a new President and a list of names was put forward of people the Chairman will approach. ACTION CA

11. VICE PRESIDENTS.

The Committee considered a discussion paper by Ray Wilson on the subject of Vice Presidents. During the discussion it was pointed out that there was currently only one VP who was taking an active interest in the Society's affairs and attending Committee meetings regularly. The view of most of the Committee was that there was no need to recommend any changes to the Constitution re VPs.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Audrey Brown raised the subject of display boards, which would have been useful at a recent Arnside and Silverdale AONB event. Vic Parsons replied that he was currently the custodian of the Society's display boards but that it had not been possible to make them available for this event.

Audrey also said that she expected that Peter Standing would soon be asking for permission to use the Society's logo on a new booklet which would be published shortly and this was agreed.

The subject of the Murray Mitchell Trail (aka Kendal Building Stones) was raised and the Secretary was asked to get in touch with Geoff Brambles to ascertain the position.

ACTION BK

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Secretary was asked to arrange the next meeting for a suitable date in September, depending on the availability of a suitable venue. ACTION BK

NOTE: Castle Street Social Centre, 21st September 2017 at 7.00pm arranged.