

## WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at the Abbot Hall Social Centre, Kendal

Present: Christine Anderson (Chairman); Brian Kettle (Secretary); John Fairhurst (Treasurer); Ray Wilson (Lectures Secretary); Bob Entwistle (Field Secretary), Mike Coates and John Wood.

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES: John Wood was welcomed to the Committee. Apologies received from Audrey Brown, Vic Parsons and Richard Wrigley.

#### 2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Chair said that Mike Coates had volunteered to fill the vacancy for an ordinary committee member. This was agreed by all and Mike was welcomed to the Committee.

#### 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 were approved as a correct record.

Item 4a. The Secretary confirmed that the Society's insurance covered the use of the hall.

Item 8. Jacob's Join. Clive Boulter had volunteered to host the summer Jacob's Join.

Item 10a. It was confirmed that the print run for the Proceedings had been reduced.

#### 4. CHAIR'S REPORT

a. Geoweeek: The Chair reported that 19 people, plus three Society members, had attend the event at Kendal Museum and that feedback had been positive. The geological walk around the building stones of Kendal led by Geoff Brambles, had also been well attended and had received some good publicity with a photo in the Westmorland Gazette. An article about the event is also due to appear in the Cumbria Wildlife Trust magazine.

b. Publicity: The Chair reported on further developments of the website and that she had attended the Arnside & Silverdale AONB annual conference at the end of January. It was agreed to find out more about local U3A geology groups. **BK to investigate.**

c. Attendance at lectures 2018/19: Over half the membership (61 people) attended one or more lecture, as follows:

17/10/19 Plates v Plumes (Foulger) = 45 (& 5 visitors)

21/11/19 Garnet Grain Boundaries (Dempster) = 31

19/12/19 Members' Evening = 27

16/1/19 Returning Carbon to Nature (Stephenson) = 32 (& 15 v)

20/2/19 Presidential Address (Leslie) = 36 (& 3 v)

20/3/19 Gold Mine in the Clouds (Brooks) = 35

Looking at attendance figures from eight of the last ten years, October, December & February showed the highest figures recorded, and all lectures had above average attendance. RW was thanked for putting on such an appealing programme which, along with changes in the membership to include more active members, accounts for the improved attendance figures.

#### 5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

a. Abbot Hall Social Club. The secretary reported that he had attended the AHSC AGM where it had been reported that bookings had improved to the extent that the hall was covering its costs so fees would not be increased for the coming year.

b. Brown Howe Quarry. The information board at this disused quarry was partly funded by the GA Curry Fund and it has now been awarded a Curry Fund certificate of merit. This award is to be

marked by a ceremony at the quarry at 11am on 26<sup>th</sup> June which will be attended by the GA past president, Haydon Bailey and the current president, Nick Pierpoint. It was agreed that **BK** and **BE** would represent the Society. Members would be welcome to attend. Details would be included in the next newsletter.

#### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that only two members had not paid their fees for the current year. Membership now stood at 102.

#### 7. WORKSHOPS

The chair reported that 18 members (plus three who ran/helped run workshops) & one visitor had attended one or more workshop as follows:

23/10/10 Rocks in a Box (Brown) = 9 (& leader)

22/1/19 Introduction to Minerals (Skillerne de Bristowe) = 10 (& 3 leaders/helpers)

26/2/19 Geological Maps I (Brown) = 6 (& leader & helper)

26/3/19 Geological Maps II (Boulter) = 15 (& 3 leaders/helpers)

These numbers were enough to make workshops financially viable. It had been suggested that these events might be held fortnightly, rather than monthly as at present, but the Committee felt that a monthly event was more sustainable. The future programme might include Geoff Brambles (fossils), Brian Kettle (earthquakes), Vic Parsons (stratigraphic column), Clive Boulter (maps), Bernard Skillerne de Bristowe (minerals) and Audrey Brown (the rock cycle).

#### 8. FIELD SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was reported that attendance had been reasonable at the three trips held so far this year. Holmepark Fell (22 members plus 7 visitors), Brown Howe Quarry (15 m plus 1 v) and Duddon Basin (13 m). All had enjoyed dry & pleasant weather. It was agreed that more information, such as distance covered, height gained and conditions of paths, should be made available to members so they had a better idea of what to expect (in addition to any handouts provided by leaders). A form to request this information would be trialled.

#### 9. LECTURE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Lecture Secretary said that he did not usually start preparing his programme until October so there was little to report. He did remind the Committee that he was retiring at the next AGM and would not be organising the lectures for the 2020/21 Programme. It was agreed to appeal for volunteers for this role in the next Newsletter.

#### 10. PROCEEDINGS EDITOR'S REPORT

The Editor was unable to attend and had nothing to report. The following write-ups for the remainder of the summer season were agreed: - Jacob's Join - John Wood or Brian Kettle; Heysham – Chris Anderson; Shap Quarry – Geoff Brambles; Threlkeld – Mike Coates; Birkhams Quarry – Sylvia Woodhead. There was some discussion about how to encourage more members to attempt write-ups.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: there was no other business.

#### 12. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at AHSC on Tuesday 1st October at 3.00pm.