

WESTMORLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd January 2019 at the Abbot Hall Social Centre, Kendal

Present: Christine Anderson (Chairman); Brian Kettle (Secretary); John Fairhurst (Treasurer); Ray Wilson (Winter Lectures Secretary); Vic Parsons (Editor); Audrey Brown (Vice-President).

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies received from Mike Coates and Bob Entwistle

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th Sept 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Item 3b. The Chair reported that Cumbria Geological Society was also promoting the displays at Kendal Museum and that an article about these exhibits would be appearing in the GA Magazine.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

a. Publicity: The Chair reported that information on the Society's website had been increased (thanks to Ann Allwright for her work on this). Summaries of PAST EVENTS (lectures, field trips and tutorials), photographs, and committee minutes were all up to date. The NEWS page still needed work. The LDNP have added the Society website to their LINKS. The WGS website had 1954 'hits' in 2018, which would increase if members used the site to access other sites via the LINKS page (e.g. BGS, GA, CGS, CumbriaGeoCon, Kendal Museum & mineral collection etc.). Anne Thompson had organised a mailshot to 42 local schools with details of lectures etc. Posters about forthcoming events were now widely distributed.

b. Programme Card: It was agreed to accept Ann Allwright's offer to produce the Programme Card. The Secretary would liaise with her on content (e.g. adding dates of workshops). **ACTION BK/AA**

c. Geoweek: This year's Geoweek would run from 4-12 May. Suggestions were made about how the Society could participate.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

a. Abbot Hall Social Club: The Secretary reported that he had circulated two notices regarding use of AHSC for the information of Committee members. It was queried if the Society's insurance covered damage to the hall. **BK to check.**

b. GDPR: The Secretary reported that GDPR acceptance forms had now been received from all but four of the Society's membership.

c. Membership: It was reported that the Society's membership stood at 109 and had fluctuated between 100 and 110 for the past decade. He asked committee members to ensure that any membership forms handed out contained the GDPR declaration.

d. Proceedings: The Secretary reported that the stockpile of Proceedings from previous years was continuing to grow and that there was very little demand for them as all previous issues were available on disc. He was authorised to reduce stocks and retain multiple copies of only the most recent issues. **ACTION BK**

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the draft accounts showed a healthy surplus in 2018. A bank statement received after the draft accounts had been printed showed that reserves stood at £5,326 (tutorials had produced an unexpected surplus). It was agreed to maintain current level of subscriptions for now.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR AGM

- a. The chair confirmed that Graham Leslie would be attending. He would chair the AGM and deliver the Presidential Address. The Secretary would brief him on the AGM. **ACTION BK**
- b. Constitution: It was proposed that Rule 3b be amended to read “The annual subscription shall be payable on 1 January.” This removes the reference to membership lapsing at the following AGM if a subscription was not paid by that date. The Secretary explained that this change was because of the GDPR regulations which state that all reference to ex-members should be removed from the Society’s records. **BK to explain at the AGM**
- b. Committee Vacancies and Nominations: The Chair reported that Bob Entwistle did not feel able to take over as Treasurer (mostly due to computer issues). He had, however, volunteered to take over the role of Field Secretary from Mike Coates (who was retiring after six years in this role). Both Brian Kettle and John Fairhurst were prepared to serve for another year unless any other nominations were received, as would Ray Wilson. John Wood had agreed to serve as an ordinary member. It was agreed therefore that the Committee would nominate Bob Entwistle as Field Secretary and John Wood as Ordinary Member.

7. TUTORIALS

It was reported that the tutorials or workshops had been successful with reasonable attendances which had made them financially viable. It was agreed to continue the programme in the autumn and to continue to charge a fee of £3.

8. FIELD SECRETARY’S REPORT

The programme for the summer of 2019 was put before the Committee. It included seven trips plus the Jacob’s Join. It was agreed that the next Newsletter should include a request for members to host the Jacob’s Join. **ACTION CA/BK**

9. WINTER LECTURE SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Winter Lecture Secretary reported that he had almost completed the programme for 2019-20 (details had been circulated). He was thanked for the work he had done to ensure that AHSC had a head set microphone for the use of lecturers (and had bought some disposal covers for this). It was agreed that this post would be known as Lecture Secretary in future.

10. PROCEEDINGS EDITOR’S REPORT

- a. The Proceedings Editor reported that he had now received most of the reports for 2018.
- b. Sales of 2017 Proceedings: The Editor reported that he had ordered 150 copies of the 2017 edition in anticipation of selling copies at various events. Due to unforeseen circumstances, only nine copies had been sold, resulting in an additional net cost of just over £100. It was agreed to cut back the print run to the usual level in future. **BK/VP to liaise on this.**
- c. Recruitment: There was a discussion about ways of increasing recruitment including holding a public lecture, taking the WGS stand to public places/events (e.g. library). CumbriaGeoCon uses a ‘business card’ that they hand out. It was agreed to ask members via the Newsletter what they find attractive in the existing programme and for ideas of what might attract new members.
- d. Write-up for 2019:
February (Graham Leslie speaker) – Chris Anderson
March (Kent Brooks speaker) – Kent would be asked if he would write-up his own lecture.

The first three field trips of the year would be led by members and they would be asked to report on their own trip (April PS; April AB; May CB).

11. ROLES OF CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY

RW queried whether there was some confusion between these roles. The Chair explained that she had been involving herself more at busy times and to get a better understanding about what the role involved, and that the two worked very much together.

12. AOB

An enquiry was made about progress with the proposed 'Murray Mitchell' publication about the building stones of Kendal. It was explained that the topic had proved more extensive than originally anticipated, but that the Secretary would ask again about a completion date. **ACTION BK**

13. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at AHSC on Tues 21st May at 3.30pm.