

NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – MILLBURN ACADEMY, INVERNESS – 13 November 2018

Present: Stephen Young (Chair); Alison Wright (Secretary); Alan Thompson (Treasurer)
Anne Cockroft; David Jarman; Andy Leggatt; Dave Longstaff; Andy Moffat; Ann Reynolds
(Committee Members)

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Notes from the last meeting and matters arising**

These were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting; there were 3 matters arising:

AW contacted Gairloch High School re the samples donated by Tony Harris but it appears that this is a non-starter. They would be suitable as teaching samples so AW agreed to see if the local U3A group would like them.

There was a brief discussion regarding the capacity of the website to host Georeports as suggested by DJ. AT said that Spanglefish would be able to advise and AL will investigate further. DJ will submit his Glen Feshie report to give an indication of the file size needed. As for the Ussher Society, AW will contact Peter Scott for advice re on-line publication.

Action: AL; DJ; AW

It was noted that the Gift Aid statement on the membership form does not need to be changed.

3. **Current financial position**

AT submitted a summary of the society's finances to the committee ahead of the meeting and it was agreed that the financial position remains good. AT asked that we remind members that it is their responsibility to inform the Treasurer if a change in circumstances affects their Gift Aid status and that this information can be reported on the membership form.

Membership cards will only be issued to new members and members requesting library access.

AT will pay the annual subscription to the Friends of Hugh Miller.

Action: AT; AW

4. **Summer excursion programme - 2019**

Agreed trips for 2019 include a self-led trip to Eigg next spring (Sat 13th-Thurs 18th April) and an excursion to Assynt (9th-12th May) which will be led by Ian Parsons.

DL and AM are working on the building stones of Inverness project in conjunction with Susan Brooks (Inverness Museum) and will run an updated trip to the city centre on 16th June.

DJ kindly offered to lead a trip to Glen Feshie for the group on 21st July.

AM and DL will lead a trip to Kintail and Rattigan on 25th August.

AW hopes to arrange a day-trip to Strathpeffer in late September or early October.

Action: AW

5. **Future evening lectures – Winter 2018/9**

AW has contacted the speakers suggested previously and talks are now in place for 9th October and 6th November 2019. The committee made additional suggestions and AW will look to put together a full

programme for the coming year. It was agreed that the 2020 AGM will be held on 19th February.

Action: AW

6. **Arrangements for members' evening following AGM on 20 February 2019**

AM and MM have both agreed to help identify members' rocks following the AGM but a more formal approach will assist the running of the evening. AW will contact MM to see if he will speak for ~20 mins after the AGM about some of his specimens; AW will also ask members to bring their interesting rocks to the January meeting so that the panel have a chance to look at them before the AGM. AW will ask PM if he would also like to be on the panel.

Action: AW

7. **Appointment of new secretary/ies**

AW prepared a summary of the jobs that she currently undertakes as Secretary. AL offered to take over as Minutes Secretary and DL will become newsletter editor. SY and AC will share responsibility for organising the programme, with SY approaching speakers and leaders and AC managing the logistics. AW will handover present arrangements after the AGM and provide support if required.

Action: AC; AL; AW; DL; SY

8. **Appointment/re-appointment of other office bearers and committee members**

The two-year appointment as Chair is due for renewal this year and SY indicated that he would be happy to continue for a further term if there were no other candidates. AT is willing to continue as Treasurer and the present committee are also prepared to serve for the coming year, subject to approval at the AGM. AW will need to be elected to the committee and AC, AL, AM, AR, DJ and DL nominated for re-election.

Action: AW; SY

9. **Renewal (or not) of 'Down to Earth' subscription**

It was agreed to increase the subscription from 15 to 20 copies of 'Down to Earth' at a cost of £40. Copies will continue to be sent to SY for distribution at winter meetings/excursions.

Action: AT; SY

10. **Domestic arrangements for winter meetings**

It was agreed that AW would book the Snow Goose on 5th December and ask participants for feedback after the meal. It was noted that a classroom at Millburn Academy provided better viewing facilities than those offered by the meeting room, although members should feel free to bring a cushion with them to make the seats more comfortable. Other societies use the UHI lecture theatre (possibly at staff rates) but AW will investigate the price of hiring this as a possible venue.

Action: AW

11. **AOCB**

NW Highlands Geopark: The NWHG has launched a Friends scheme which is open to individuals via their website. AW will include details in the next newsletter.

Action: AW

EGS/NWHG workshop: SY attended the EGS-led workshop held at the end of October which included the possibility of setting up a new charity to promote geology in Scotland. SY is on the interest group which will carry out the initial scoping work and will keep HGS members informed of developments.

Action: SY

12. **Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th January at 6.30 pm at Millburn Academy.