

NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – MILLBURN ACADEMY, INVERNESS – 19 June 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 was one matter arising:

AW contacted Pete Harrison regarding the rock specimens donated by Tony Harris. The NW Highlands Geopark wouldn't be able to make use of them but Pete suggested contacting Gairloch High School as they might take them.

Action: AW

3. **Proposed donations to Lochaber and North West Highlands Geoparks**

It was unanimously agreed to make one-off donations of £250 to both the Lochaber and NW Highlands Geopark in support of their activities, including leading excursions for our society.

Action: SY; AT

4. **The future programme, both of winter talks during 2018/9 and of summer excursions in 2019**

Suggestions were made regarding a couple of possible speakers for 2019. AW will contact these individuals in due course.

Plans are in hand for a self-led trip to Eigg next spring (Sat 13th-Thurs 18th April). The group will stay at the Glebe Barn Hostel. AW to give further details in the next newsletter.

Further suggestions for possible excursions (and/or leaders) were put forward by the group.

DJ kindly offered to lead a trip to Glen Feshie for the group.

Following on from our recent review of Sinclair Ross' notes, an evening excursion looking at the building stones of Inverness was also suggested.

A proposal that a (self-led) trip to Shetland should be made in 2020 was put forward, assuming that the much anticipated new field guide will be published by then.

AW will contact proposed leaders in anticipation of being able to provide a full programme for 2019.

Action: AR; AW

5. **Possible payment of £100 to Angus Miller for a talk next March about the geology of Eigg**

It was agreed that the society would pay Angus Miller a fee, as requested, in addition to reasonable travel expenses, in recognition that his business 'Geowalks' provides excursions to Eigg and that, by making use of the new guidebook, the society is directly benefitting from his professional expertise.

Action: AT; AW

6. **Publication of reports and photos of field trips in the Society's newsletter**

DL suggested that more information about excursions that had taken place could be included in the newsletter. This could be a couple of pages of text and photographs and the information could also be hosted on the website. He hoped that this might encourage more members to join the field trips and also help generate wider interest in the society's activities.

DL and AT agreed to put together a report from the Strontian excursion.

Action: DL; AL; AT; AW

7. The appointment of a secretary to succeed Alison

SY suggested that the duties undertaken currently by the secretary need not be done by a single person. He stated that it is the responsibility of the Chair to approve notes from a meeting and thus that this could be done by a volunteer at each meeting. AL intimated that he would be happy to do this. Although the secretary puts together the programme, aspects of this could be separated out, for example AR securing accommodation for self-led trips. DL also suggested that he could put together the newsletter, although much of the programme content that AW includes comes directly from email correspondence with leaders and speakers. It was agreed that the committee would continue to look for a new secretary.

Action: All

8. Publication of georeports of Highland interest below the level suitable for academic journals (online of course)

DJ raised the possibility of the society's website hosting 'georeports' of highland interest as it is extremely difficult to publish information that is not suitable for inclusion in existing academic journals with demand for peer review and associated expenses. Publication of such material might also be of interest to other Scottish geological societies. DJ drew our attention to the 'Proceedings of the Ussher Society' which contains information of geological, geomorphological and applied geological interest in SW England. This is administered through the University of Exeter and AW agreed to find out more about the Ussher Society's publication process.

Action: AW

9. AOCB

Amendments to 2018 membership/renewal form: AT noted that Gift Aid information in the current form is out of date and thus a new declaration will be included in the form for 2019. AT will produce a draft towards the end of 2018 for perusal.

Action: AT; SY

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was not considered necessary to set the date for the next committee meeting but it is likely to be in November.