

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at Tollgate Hall, Stanway, 7.30pm on Tuesday 18th November 2021

Present: 16 members

1. **Apologies for absence** – John Ratford, Bob & Caroline Markham, Mary Ann Watkins, Ginny Hall.
2. **Approval of minutes of AGM held on 3rd November 2020 by Zoom**

Approval was proposed by Kay Gordon, seconded by Paul Roberts and all were in favour of the approval the minutes of the 2020 AGM and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

1. **Annual Report by Chairman, Ian Mercer**

Copies of the Annual Report written by the Chairman had been sent to members by email and were distributed at the meeting. . They were taken as read. There were no comments or questions. The report was then unanimously received by those present. A copy has been sent to the Geologists' Association for inclusion in their Annual Report, as ERMS is a GA Affiliated Group.

1. **Financial Report and Statement of Accounts, Alistair Rickards**

Copies of the examined accounts were distributed to all members by email and were distributed at the meeting. The treasurer, Alistair Rickards, drew attention to the Society's income which shows a deficit as predicted, mainly due to the cancellation of the Show, but the Society is still in a well-placed financial position. The project at Thorndon, funded mainly by a grant from the Land of the Fanns with a small supplement from ERMS was completed during the year. The Statement of Accounts was approved by all present.

1. **Amendments to the Constitution:**

The following amendments to the Constitution were proposed and approved by all present.

1. Para 2: reword to better reflect the current activities of the Society, viz: '*The object of the Society shall be to promote interest in rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and general geology through meetings, a website, social media, an annual Show, displays, field visits and other means as determined by the Committee.*'
2. Para 5i: to insert '*non-refundable*' re annual subscription.
3. Para 6: to increase the number of other committee members to '*up to 8*' to enable better representation from both meeting venues.
4. Para 7: to reduce the bank signatory requirement to '*one signatory*' to facilitate the use of a debit card and to add a spending safeguard: '*Payments over £50 will require to be endorsed by 2 committee members and recorded by the Treasurer.*'

1. **Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer**

Existing officers in the roles of Chairman, Ian Mercer; Vice-Chairman, Jeff Saward; Treasurer, Alistair Rickards; and Secretary, Ros Mercer, were willing to stand for a further year and were duly elected unopposed.

1. Election of Committee Members – up to 8, taking on roles of Field Visits Secretary, Membership Secretary etc.

John Lacy indicated that he would not stand for re-election and would therefore retire from the committee after many years of service in a number of roles. He was thanked by the chairman and a small token of appreciation would be given to him.

John Ratford also indicated that he would not stand for re-election.

The current committee members: David Turner, Gerald Lucy and Mark Matthews were willing to stand again and Brian & Kay Gordon, Paul Roberts and Ginny Hall were proposed and seconded to stand as voting members of the committee, together with Sylvia Cousins who offered to join the committee. All were duly elected by members present.

1. Appointment of an Accounts Examiner:

Mark Watson who had examined this year's accounts was proposed by Alistair Rickards and all were in favour.

1. Suggestions from Members.

Mark Matthews has been working on a system to live-stream face to face meetings via Zoom. This would be possible from Shenfield as wifi was available in the hall, but a phone signal would need to be used at Stanway and would require further investigation.

The programme for 2022 would include up to 3 meetings per month – one at each venue and a Zoom session which would either be an invited speaker too far away to travel or an ERMS Extra presentation from the selection that Ros & Ian Mercer have available.

The ERMS website would be upgraded to enable online sales and membership and a card reader terminal is now available for transactions at meetings. Mark Matthews was thanked for his efforts to bring the running of the Society into the 21st century.

The Show, for which plans are in hand, will take place in 2022 on 19th February at the usual venue – the North Romford Community Centre. Fliers have been printed for distribution in the New Year.

There being no further business, the AGM was closed at 8.28pm.

Committee for 2021-2022:

Chairman, Ian Mercer

Vice-Chairman, Jeff Saward

Treasurer, Alistair Rickards

Secretary, Ros Mercer

Mark Matthews

David Turner

Gerald Lucy

Brian Gordon

Kay Gordon

Paul Roberts

Ginny Hall

Sylvia Cousins