

# ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CORNWALL, 1814-2021

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 AT 2.00PM

Held online through zoom

1. **President's Welcome** and opening of meeting: FW welcomed all attendees.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Neil Plummer who passed away on 22 April 2021. Neil's contribution to the Society was significant over many years and his dedication ensured that the Society is still active today as a vibrant group with meetings and field visits. Neil held office as President and Secretary and was very active in organising evening meetings, leading and organising field trips and encouraging new members. His funeral was a traditional Cornish funeral in Stithians which was attended by several members of the Society.

2. **Present:** Frances Wall (FW), Loveday Jenkin (LJ), Linda Beskeen (LB), Hilary Mitchell (HM), Jean Taylor (JT), June Markham (JM), Nicholas Farrell, (NF), Beatrice Kernö (BK), David Davies (DD), Steve Joyce (SJ), Frank Howie, (FMPH), Vanessa Stone (VS), Caradoc Peters (CP), Susan Short (SS), Russell Short (RS), Jane B Anderson, Kathryn Moore (KM, non-member), Talk only:- Damian Nance, Ece Kirat, Thomas Sharp, Elin Jennings, Karen Hudson-Edwards, 'MCI'.

**Apologies :** James Scourse, Peter Scott, Tim Hanaway, Gawen Jenkin, Chris Page.

3. **Receipt of the minutes of the last AGM 2021:** corrections to names Rosalie Stone & Jane Anderson;

4. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda –**

1. A subcommittee has pursued the CIO process and has an update today, but are unable to complete this today – see item 9 on agenda. We will probably call an EGM to complete this.

The meeting was not quorate at the early part, so minutes were approved later when the meeting became quorate – proposed NF, seconded, FMPH, no objections so the minutes were accepted.

### 2021 New Business

5. **Hon. Secretary's Report:** available online, including notes on the programme of events proposed for 2022; membership 2021-2022: no questions were posed.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** A short version is available on the website. Annual Accounts, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020-31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were presented & a brief update statement of accounts given. There were no questions. Jean Taylor has checked through the accounts and signed them off as correct; thanks were expressed for this work by FW & NF. NK talked us through this. Figs from the online report are unchanged but as the CIO change occurs the format will change slightly – see new paper to be placed on website. The members subscriptions system will be looked at to enable this to be quicker in using the online system in future. Online banking through the HBSC account is still waiting for completion.  
The current bank statement shows £28,017.41p in the Society's account.  
The pandemic regulations have meant that our expenses have been very low. Some expenditures for this year occurred in the previous year (eg. Website fees) and in the following year (eg insurance). We will have bank charges in future which will cost ~£60 per year (equivalent to 4 individual subscriptions). Regular outgoings were approx. £767, with an operating margin of approx. £225 p.a..

BK (Membership Secretary) reported membership numbers: BK has 80 registered as paid for the current year & some additional members joining as a result of the field work activities. LJ proposed acceptance of the report, VS seconded, report carried, c.u.

7. **President's Report:** The written report is accessible on the website. Thanks was expressed by FW to the University of Exeter for hosting zoom meetings, all those who led talks & walks & to members of council; we are lucky to have a mix of skills at present, but the more people who are willing to be active, the more we can do.

LJ proposed a vote of thanks to FW for all the hard work she has put in over the year and the way she has drawn people to the Society. Supported by members & council.

## 8. **Election of Officers**

TRUSTEES, CURRENT & PROPOSED:

President: Professor Frances Wall (3<sup>rd</sup> year of 3<sup>rd</sup> year term)

Proposed for election for 2022 - 2023

Vice President: Loveday Jenkin

Treasurer: Nicholas Farrell

Secretary: Linda Beskeen

Membership Secretary: Beatrice Kerno

Members of Council: Hilary Mitchell, Caradoc Peters

Attends Council meetings: Frank M.P. Howie, representing Cornwall Geoconservation Group and Gardeners' House – Penzance (Morrab Garden) project representative

All officers & council members were voted in for the following year – proposed Susan Short, seconded, June Markham; no objections, trustees and council members duly elected.

FW gave an open invitation to any other members who would like to come forward to stand for council to contact her if they are interested.

9. **Ratification of the RGSC Constitution:** Hilary Mitchell used a short set of Powerpoint slides to explain the need to ratify the current constitution whilst maintaining the charitable objects as lodged at the Charity Commission in readiness for the change to a CIO. A problem arose when comparing the charitable objects on the RGSC website compared to those on the Charity Commission website. The activities and aims are compatible but any change in the objects has to be approved by the Charity Commission. The problem is that the changes in objectives proposed in 2012 were not in effect legally due to not having been formally approved and registered with the Charity Commission. This means that we have a valid constitution as voted on and accepted in 2012, but some small changes to the 2012 Constitution cannot be found in current records, so we need to tidy this up. Advice from our solicitors [Counterculture Partnership LLP] is that the best way forward is to ratify the current constitution but with the 2002 charitable objects as recorded at the Charity Commission. The objectives as shown at the Charity Commission were shared on screen for clarity and there was a short discussion of the difference between these and the objectives listed in the 2012 version of the constitution. No difference would be incurred to the operation of the Society as a result of approving the constitution as proposed. A vote to accept this proposal was held: proposed LJ, 2nded NF – voted to accept c.u.
10. **Digitalisation Project:** FW explained the work of our members, Dr Charlie Moon, who has been scanning and creating searchable pdf copies of past copies of the RGSC Transactions that are not already available on our website from a Google project . Once available they will be placed online with correct key word allocation for reference by search engines such as Google Scholar, on the RGSC website. We have a call for volunteers to check them to ensure they are legible and correct, with no missing pages etc., and also to create key search words. Please contact the Secretary, Linda Beskeen, if you would like to help in any way.

- 11. Annual Address:** Professor Karen Hudson-Edwards, Professor of Sustainable Mining, Camborne School of Mines and Sustainable Mining, University of Exeter, delivered an illustrated address on *"An exploration of the geochemistry, mineralogy, impacts and resource potential of mine wastes occurring from Canada to Cornwall"*. The talk included examples from Canada, UK, Europe, USA, Cyprus, Nigeria amongst other locations and covered work being undertaken in Cornwall by a number of people at Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter. There were many questions and the possibility of a field trip was agreed.
- 12. The next AGM** is to be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- 13. Closure of the AGM** at 4.18pm.