

# ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CORNWALL 1814-2022

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 2.00PM

in the Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Penzance.

1. **President's Welcome and opening of meeting**, and remembrance for members who have died this year – Frank Howie, Melissa Hardie, Chris Page, Bob Conybeare

Present: - Frances Wall (FW), Linda Beskeen (LB), Hilary Mitchell (HM), Nick Farrell (NF), Beatrice Kerno (BK), Loveday Jenkin (LJ), Caradoc Peters (CP), (members of the committee); 22 other members (see attendance form).

2. **Apologies:** Claire Page, Vanessa Stone
3. **Receipt of the minutes of the last AGM, 2022**
4. **Matters Arising not on the Agenda** – none notified.

### 2023 New Business

5. **Hon. Secretary's Report:** LB delivered, see separate sheet.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Nick O'Farrell delivered the Annual Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Our expenditure in this year was increased by the employment of a curator who delivered a report on the archive which guides us for future care and use of the archive. The next annual cost consists of GA membership & Insurance. Bank charges have not been put in. A brief update statement of accounts and membership was delivered.

Total income 2021-2022: £1,094.00 Total expenditure 2021-2022 £1,090.06, giving an excess of £3.94p over the year on running costs.

HSBC acct balance on 01 Apr 2021 was £28,133.47; on 31 Mar 2022 : £28,137.41 Difference = £ 3.94

The bank balance of £28,815.16p = net £628.21p increase in credit in January 2023. This does not include the cost of the internet subscription for our website, so we expect approx. £500 p.a. Submitted Charity Commission return was on time in January. The large bank balance is due to a past legacy which has been merged with our working account. At the moment we hope to maintain the current membership fees of £15 per annum. This low subscription does encourage people to join. We will be looking at an online system of paying fees. J Macadam asked about student fees – the subs is the same but we have had some students joining. JM suggested that we offer subscriptions at a cheaper rate for students. Perhaps a 'schools membership' equivalent might be possible, following up students is difficult as they rarely let us know when they leave. Direct Debit payment is more helpful for the membership secretary and treasurer. Payment is due on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

7. **President's Report:** Frances Wall has a printed report – see notes attached. Thanks to officers & Council, Hon members and LJ, CP, HM. Background work done by Janet Wynn who has done all of the work on the website and is very efficient and does this voluntarily. A lot of work has gone on this year – thanks to Katherine Moore, Gareth Parry & Stephanie Clemens of South West Museum Partnership. Field trips and talks need to be organised but we also need help with other tasks such as transactions and the work undertaken by Charlie Moon on digitisation – volunteers needed to go through this to check and to look for key words. CM has gone back to c. 1900. Kresen Kernow will be doing the earlier ones which are more fragile. . We could possibly offer a day at KEM to work on this. A lot of exciting work in Cornwall in the moment with minerals and geothermal activity. We can only expand if we have more. An A'level day is now arranged for the 29<sup>th</sup> March at New County Hall – 80 students to discuss future mineral resource development in Cornwall.

## 8. Election of Officers – for the current RGSC

- All officers & council members are prepared to stand for the coming year and are nominated by the president and secretary. FW to continue as Ho. President & Officers & Council Members to continue proposed Peter Scott, seconded John Macadam, CU.
- New members of the wider committee are invited to help organise the programme & events and to help promote geology in Cornwall. Please do enquire for further information from members of Council if you are interested.

**9. Charitable Incorporated Organisation:** FW explained that a CIO is the most up to date system of management that we voted to instigate last AGM. HM explained that we were given legal advice which we have chosen to follow. One immediate advantage is that we can operate the lease at King Edward Mine, which Cornwall Council will not allow us to sign until we are a CIO. We create a new CIO in parallel with the Charity Commission and will then merge the two. The new trustees of the CIO are temporary – advice received is for 3 independent & 2 existing trustees, a majority being independent. We have no liabilities but having 3 independent trustees ensures an objective view on fairness. As soon as possible an EGM will be held and the existing trustees will be voted on and continue to manage the RGSC as at present. A vesting deed is required (copy on the table for viewing) which transfers all the assets to the CIO and ownership is retained. The agreement for proceeding is required and when complete then we can submit it to the Charity Commission, who will take a few months to approve, and we can then go ahead with the vesting deed. The last step will be winding up the current unincorporated charity, but this takes time as it needs a new bank account, so standing orders need to be transferred, which also takes time. We can look for a new bank in which to hold our funds if we find better terms. Within a CIO there is no liability, but at the present trustees and members are liable. The main reason for transference to a CIO is to ‘futureproof’ the RGSC. The constitution we propose for the CIO is available today and follows the constitution

HM proposed, seconded CP & Sid Geeke

26 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstain, motion duly carried.

**10. Society Activities – new & current projects:** FW opened to the floor for suggestions or comments &

**NF** – thanked Frances for all her work over the past two years and the galvanising effect she has had on the Society. –

## TEA BREAK

**11. Annual Address:** Mr Andrew Bloodworth, Policy Director, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham: “*An alternative extractive history of Britain: The rise, fall and resurgence of UK domestic mineral supply*”

**12. Council recommendation that the next AGM** is held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024. – agreed c.u.

**13. Closure of the AGM**