

## COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 6 February 2013

PRESENT: D T Shilston (*Chair*), N K Ala, M G Armitage, S Brough, R W H Butler, N A Chapman, D J Cragg, J E Francis, A J Fraser (*Secretary, Science*), S A Gibson, R A Hughes, D A Jones, A Law (*Treasurer*), R J Lisle, A R Lord (*Secretary, External and Foreign Affairs*), P Maliphant, B R Marker, S B Marriott, C P Summerhayes, J H Tellam and J P Turner (*Secretary, Publications*)

APOLOGIES: M P Henton (*Secretary, Professional Matters*) and G Nichols

In attendance: E F P Nickless (Executive Secretary), N Bilham (Head of Strategy & External Relations), M Kyriakides (Head of Finance), N Marriott (Director of Publishing, Library & Information Services) and S L Jones (PA to Executive Secretary)

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies as above were noted.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

#### 3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2012

Mike Armitage suggested an amendment to the wording of section 11.1 about Open Access publishing to make it clear that the Society's priority was retaining a commitment to publishing high quality research outputs. The amendment was agreed.

SLJ

There were no other comments and the minutes were APPROVED.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

##### 4.1 *Open Access charges and impact on journal revenues (CM/01/13)*

At its November meeting Council approved the Society's draft Open Access policy, providing authors the opportunity to be either Gold (author pays) or Green (repository deposit) Open Access compliant.

There were three matters outstanding and Council AGREED that the final Open Access policy will be based on:

- i. An Article Processing Charge (APC) of £1500 for Gold Open Access;
- ii. An APC discount of £250 for Fellows; and
- iii. An embargo period of 12 months for Green Open Access.

There will be a review after twelve months.

NM

#### 4.2 *GeoScienceWorld eBooks Programme (CM/02/13)*

At its November 2012 meeting Council discussed the proposed GeoScienceWorld eBooks programme and agreed to:

- i. Participate in principle, probably contributing post 2000 Special Publications; and
- ii. Use US\$150k from reserves over two years to fund associated Publishing House staff and other start-up costs.

Edmund Nickless and Neal Marriott attended a meeting of interested parties in Washington, DC at the end of January. The primary purpose of the meeting, which was chaired by Neal Marriott, was to explore if there was broad agreement to proceed among the publishers represented. The appointment of vendors (a technology provider and content convertor) was also discussed, as well as potential product sales and timelines.

Edmund Nickless said that all those represented supported the proposal although one publisher was ambivalent. There is a Board meeting on 13 February at which a preferred ebook developer will be selected. Subject to negotiation of satisfactory contractual terms, and securing a minimum threshold of participation amongst publishers, the project will proceed and work will begin on 1 May 2013.

Council AGREED to send the letter of intent.

EN

#### 5. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

##### 5.1 *Report of the Elections Committee*

The view of the Elections Committee was that the two candidates standing for President designate are of equal standing. Ten Fellows have indicated a willingness to stand for the remaining seven vacancies on Council and the Committee was content with the spread of expertise. Voting will open on-line on 7 February and the postal ballot paper will be included with March *Geoscientist*. Voting closes on 31 March 2013. The Chair thanked the members of the Elections Committee.

##### 5.2 *Report of the Officers' Meeting*

The main items of business were the staff and committee re-structuring which are later items on the agenda.

##### 5.3 *Awards 2013*

All awardists have accepted. The President was pleased to announce the names of the two recipients of this year's Presidents Awards and will work with Council to encourage a greater number of nominations in future years. All names will be published in March *Geoscientist*.

#### 6. STAFF AND COMMITTEE RE-STRUCTURING (CM/03/13)

The new post of Director of Operations was advertised in The Guardian (print and on its website) on 16 January with a closing date of 8 February. Professor Andy Fleet and Edmund Nickless will sift the applications and select those for interview on 1 March. It is hoped that the person will be in post in the middle of

2013.

Alan Lord reported on the progress of the committee re-structuring which does not involve the Professional or Finance & Planning Committees although in future the Finance & Planning Committee will be chaired by the Treasurer.

The Science & External Relations Committee had its first meeting on 31 January. The ad hoc membership comprises Colin Summerhayes, Sally Gibson, David Vaughan, Al Fraser and Alan Lord. Alan Lord chaired the first meeting and he and Al Fraser will alternate taking the chair.

Al Fraser chaired his first meeting of the Science Committee. One of his main tasks will be to improve the engagement of the specialist groups.

AF

The External Relations Committee will meet on 19 February. One of its reporting committees, Education chaired by Nick Rogers, has produced exemplary terms of reference. The Geoconservation Committee (formerly Commission) is now chaired by Rob Butler.

Jonathan Turner, presented Council with Terms of Reference and Aims & Structure of the Publications & Information Committee, which he had drafted with input from Richard Hughes and Neal Marriott. Council AGREED the Terms of Reference and the Aims & Structure.

JT

Council also agreed that there is a charge on the “super committees” and their reporting committees to consider the retention and rotation of members. These are matters that are delegated to the individual committees to resolve.

ARL  
AJF  
JT

It is anticipated that by the time of the Annual General Meeting in June it will be possible to report to the Fellowship that the committee re-structuring is in place.

7. AMENDMENT TO REGULATION R/FP/2: CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR VALIDATION AS A CHARTERED GEOLOGIST (*CM/04/13*)

Council and the Professional Committee have agreed that a procedure should be developed to encourage geologists with 20 or more years professional experience and who are not Chartered to apply for validation, while maintaining the rigour of the present process. The Professional Committee met on 30 January and discussed the recommended procedure and suggested some minor amendments. They recognised the wish for the Society to be more welcoming and that internal processes should not discourage applicants.

The Committee noted that there has been a series of piecemeal amendments over time to regulations regarding Fellowship and Chartership with the result that in places the regulations as a whole may be in conflict. In any event, they are not written in plain English.

Council noted that the Professional Committee intends to undertake a comprehensive review of the regulations regarding Fellowship and Chartership to address the matters above. This will be brought to September Council but, in the meantime, the amendment to Regulation R/FP/2 was APPROVED.

MPH

SLJ

Council also AGREED that a list of Chartered Geologists must be available to candidates wishing to apply for Chartership so that they can identify potential sponsors.

MPH

8. NEAR SURFACE GEOPHYSICS GROUP (*CM/05/13*)

The Near Surface Geophysics Group met on 4 December 2012 and agreed a new constitution. There is nothing in the revised constitution which is in conflict with the Charter and Bye-laws.

Officers discussed, as part of the committee re-structuring item, the length of time that members should sit on committees and/or groups. This will also be relevant to specialist groups and will be addressed as part of the review by the Science Committee.

Council APPROVED the new constitution.

SLJ

9. NOVEMBER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (*CM/06/13*)

An overall month surplus of £94k was achieved against a budgeted month surplus of £34k. The main reason was increased income on investments, science meetings and room hire, as well as higher than budgeted income for both Lyell Collection and journal income. A windfall of approximately £30k was received, a one-off royalty from the Publishers Licensing Society.

There were a number of cost savings in the Publishing House totalling about £7k. However, books sales remained lower than the budget, mainly due to timing of the issue of new titles.

The year-end forecast is £352k. £110k will be transferred to the Burlington House Buildings Reserve, leaving a forecast sum of £242k to increase the Society's unrestricted reserves.

10. ELECTIONS

*Fellowship (CM/07/13)*

Council agreed to recommend to the Fellowship that those candidates listed should be elected as Fellows at the OGM on 6 February 2013.

*Chartered Geologists (CM/08/13)*

The applications from Fellows to become Chartered Geologists listed had been approved by the Chartership Panel and were agreed by Council.

*Candidate and Junior Candidate Fellowship (CM/09/13)*

Council agreed to elect those applicants listed as Candidate Fellows and Junior Candidate Fellows.

*Chartered Scientists (CM/10/13)*

Council agreed to elect those applicants listed as Chartered Scientists.

*European Geologists (CM/11/13)*

Council noted the names to be put forward for election as European Geologists

at the February EFG meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 *Website re-build*

Edmund Nickless said that he was aware that there were a number of issues with the website following its re-build and the difficulties these had caused, in particular with online recording of CPD. The project has over-run by many months but once it is fully handed over there should be greater scope for the staff to upload new content and to keep it up-to-date.

11.2 *Digitisation and destruction of Chartership records*

The Society is currently undertaking a project to scan Fellowship records dating from the period 1990 to 2010. In September 2012 Council approved the destruction of paper copies of Fellowship records once digital copies had been made for secure filing.

A similar process, for a similar period, is underway for Chartership records.

Council APPROVED the destruction of the paper copies of Chartership records once scanning is complete.

NM

11.3 *Geological Society Dining Club*

Adam Law said that all members of Council are members of the Dining Club. Numbers attending the monthly dinners are declining and members of Council were encouraged to attend. The dates of forthcoming dinners were circulated and members of Council were asked in particular to try to attend the dinner on 10 April.

Council

Adam Law is working with the new secretary of the Dining Club to identify ways of growing the membership and stimulating attendance. It was agreed that it would be helpful if Dining Club dates aligned with Council and other meetings at Burlington House.

AL

11.4 *Joint Conference GSL/AusIMM*

Mike Armitage reported that this joint conference is in the process of being organised and will be held in Cardiff on 21 October.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on 16 April 2013