

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 24 September 2013

PRESENT: David Shilston (*Chair*), Natalyn Ala, Mike Armitage (*Vice president, Corporate Affiliates*), Rob Butler, Neil Chapman, Angela Coe, David Cragg (*Vice president, Chartership*), Jane Dottridge, Chris Eccles, Marie Edmonds, Tricia Henton (*Secretary, Professional Matters*), David Jones (*Vice president, Regional Groups*), Adam Law (*Treasurer*), Richard Lisle, Alan Lord (*Secretary, External and Foreign Affairs*), David Manning (*President designate*), Brian Marker, Gary Nichols, Lucy Slater, Michael Young and Jonathan Turner (*Secretary, Publications*)

APOLOGIES: Jim Coppard and Al Fraser (*Secretary, Science*)

In attendance: Edmund Nickless (*Executive Secretary*), Nic Bilham (*Head of Strategy & External Relations*), Graeme Etheridge (*Director of Operations*), Neal Marriott (*Director of Publishing, Library & Information Services*) and Stephanie Jones (*PA to Executive Secretary*)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies as above were noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

3. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

3.1 *Report of Elections committee*

The Chair said that possible candidates who might be encouraged to stand for Council have been identified and they will be approached by the Executive Secretary to elicit their interest. The call for nominations will be in the October issue of *Geoscientist*.

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3.2 *Shale UK Conference (CM/64/13)*

June Council considered a proposal to hold a joint conference with Global Event Partners Ltd (GEP), a commercial conference organiser specialising in the hydrocarbons sector, under the title Shale Gas UK. Council tasked the Head of Strategy & External Relations and Executive Secretary with continuing to develop the programme outline in discussion with GEP, representatives of the Petroleum Group and Hydrogeology Group, interested members of Council and other Fellows. GEP are content with the revised programme. Council noted that the Society has a veto over the programme. The Chair thanked those who had put together the revised programme.

Council AGREED the programme. They NOTED that the Memorandum of Understanding (*sic*) requires further work and will be agreed with the Treasurer before a final draft is circulated to Council.

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3.3 *Climate Change Statement addendum (CM/65/13)*

The Society published a Climate Change Statement in November 2010 which was widely praised for focusing on the relevant evidence from the geological record, and for communicating this clearly to non-geologists. The report was drafted by an expert working group chaired by Colin Summerhayes. The

External Relations committee and Council provided a form of peer review by examining the process which the group had undertaken, and discussed how to disseminate the statement, but did not edit its content.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is expected to publish the contribution of Working Group 1 to its Fifth Assessment Report, on 'The Physical Science Basis', at the end of September. The Summary for Policy Makers is due to be issued on 27 September, with the full report following on 30 September. With this in mind, the expert working group which drafted the Society's 2010 statement has been reconvened to produce an addendum to that statement, to be published soon after. The addendum will be no more than three pages and will be shown alongside the original Climate Change statement.

Council NOTED the changes that have been made to the membership of the expert working group, with two of the original members being stood down because they are authors of Working Group 1 report chapters.

Council AGREED in principle to issue an addendum to the Society's Climate Change Statement, and to remit to the External Relations committee the work of reviewing the process followed by the working group, reviewing the addendum and, if satisfied, of signing off the final text.

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4. JULY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (CM/66/13)

The outturn for July was a surplus of £61k with the Lyell Collection, Journal Income and Meetings & Events performing above budget. Some of the processing issues with Fellowship income have been addressed securing £38k instead of the budgeted £9k expected in July. Book sales, room hire and investment income were lower than budgeted, in part due to the delay in the book publication schedule and also a number of rooms being unavailable for hire due to the refurbishment work at Burlington House. Two new books were published in July: *SP372 Geological Development of Anatolia and the Easternmost Mediterranean* and *Rock-Forming Minerals, Volume 3C: Clay Minerals*.

Adam Law said that Graeme Etheridge is working on the structure of the management accounts; one of the factors will be to bring into the body of the accounts certain items of expenditure such as the maintenance of Burlington House and the obligations under the lease as well as the cost of Library journal subscriptions.

5. BUDGET 2014 – PROGRESS REPORT (CM/67/13)

The Finance & Planning Committee discussed the 2014 budget at its meeting on 11 September. They considered numerous budgetary assumptions, pressures and bids and the outcome of those discussions will inform the next iteration of the budget to be considered by the Committee on the 13 November 2013, and presented with their final recommendations for approval by Council on 27 November 2013. The Committee agreed a number of recommendations which because of timing required Council's approval before their November meeting.

Council AGREED that:-

- i. pending consideration by the Education Committee at their November meeting, the Society should continue to support Rockwatch with an annual grant of £5k and that provision for this amount should be made in the

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budget;

- ii. if no external sponsorship is secured to fund the London Lecture Series, the Society should meet the £25k budgeted costs, while requesting the executive to continue their efforts to secure sponsorship;
- iii. the current rotating Policy Internship post is converted into a permanent Policy Assistant post to assist the Head of Strategy & External Relations. Council noted that there was discussion by the Finance & Planning Committee about “establishment creep” and the long-term consequences and liabilities of creating further permanent posts. With regard to two other proposed posts (Publishing House Online Editor and an IT apprentice), the executive team were charged with reviewing current staffing resources and development the business cases further within the context of a more strategic review of staffing requirements; and
- iv. the salary cap for 2014 salary increases will be set at 3%. It was noted that this amount will fund any base level salary increases, performance related pay and/or bonuses. Council noted that there had been full discussion by the Finance & Planning Committee and that some members considered this amount too high given Council’s decision to restrict the rise in Fellowship fees to 1.8%, previous salary caps and increases, current external levels of salary settlements within the general economy and the continued upward pressure on the Society’s overall salary budget.

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Adam Law thanked the staff for their work on the budget.

6. ELECTIONS

6.1 *Fellowship (CM/68/13)*

Council AGREED to recommend to the Fellowship that those candidates listed in CM/68/13 should be elected as Fellows at the OGM on 25 September 2013.

6.2 *Chartered Geologists (CM/69/13)*

The applications from Fellows to become Chartered Geologists listed in CM/69/13 had been approved by the Chartership Panel and were AGREED by Council.

6.3 *Candidate and Junior Candidate Fellowship (CM/70/13)*

Council AGREED to elect those applicants listed in CM/70/13 as Candidate Fellows and Junior Candidate Fellows.

6.4 *Chartered Scientists (CM/71/13)*

Council AGREED that the persons named on paper CM/71/13 should be elected as Chartered Scientists.

6.5 *European Geologists (CM/72/13)*

Council NOTED the names elected as European Geologists at the September meeting of the EFG.

7. MEETING DATES 2014/15 AND 2015/16 (CM/73/13)

Council NOTED the dates agreed so far. Further dates will be circulated by the secretaries of the committees as they are arranged.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on 27 November 2013 at 2.00pm