**NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – 12 ISLAND HOUSE, INVERNESS – 15 February 2016**

**Present:** Alan Thompson (Chair); Alison Wright (Secretary); Rhona Fraser (Treasurer)

Anne Cockroft; Andy Leggatt; Ann Reynolds; Stephen Young (Committee Members)

**Apologies:** John Adamson; Eddie Lynch

1. **Notes from the last meeting**

These were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting.

2. **2015 Accounts**

The accounts, prepared by RF, were accepted by the committee as an accurate reflection of the society’s finances. It was noted that the £20 affiliation fee had not been paid to the Friends of Hugh Miller and thus 2015 and 2016 will be paid together. It was agreed that the Chair could sign off the accounts on behalf of the committee. It was also noted that the Independent Examiner had signed the accounts without comment, which reflects the effort put in by the Treasurer and Chair to ensure the accuracy of the information presented.

3. **Trustees Report**

The Trustees Report outlines the work of the society and is one of the documents submitted to OSCR at the end of the financial year. More detail is given to members in the Chair’s Report (presented at the AGM) but AT wanted to ensure that the two reports are consistent with one another.

**Action**: AT

4. **Trustees and Officers for the next year**

AT reminded the group that all officers and committee members were due for election at the AGM. The position of Chair is a two year post; all other positions must be renewed annually. All office bearers and committee members have confirmed that they are willing to stand for re-election at the AGM.

**Action**: AT

5. **Conduct of the AGM**

The agenda for the AGM and supporting information has been circulated to members; AT undertook to conduct the meeting as efficiently as possible.

**Action**: AT

6. **Other current actions**

**Insurance** SY previously circulated information about insurance available through affiliation with the Geologists Association, which received a positive response from the committee. SY has submitted the necessary paperwork and is awaiting a response from Zurich Insurance. If the insurers are unwilling to accept our application, SY will proceed with our current insurers (Event Insurance) to ensure that we have suitable cover in place before the start of our field season in April.

**Action**: SY

**Membership Renewals** AT will put out a gentle reminder at the AGM that subscriptions were due last month. RT will liaise with AL to identify those members who paid in 2015 but have not yet paid this year so that follow-up action can be taken.

**Action:** AT; RF; AL

**Whisky Gifts** The society has traditionally given both speakers and excursion leaders a bottle of whisky in thanks for their efforts. In the light of new advice re alcohol consumption it was decided that a choice of whisky, wine or a book token should be offered and the appropriate gift given.

**Action:** AW; AT

**Presentation** In recognition of Peter Christie’s tenure as HGS Chair for 16 years, JA purchased a sandstone clock on behalf of the committee for presentation at the AGM. AT confirmed that he would close the AGM and then make the presentation to Peter.

**Action:** AT

7. **AOCB**

**Public access to Inverness library** SY noted that he had been refused access to the HGS collection on a visit to the central library on the grounds that the stacks were not accessible to the public. AR stated that this was contrary to the guidance notes issued to library staff and that, should this happen again, a request should be made to speak to a more senior member of staff.