**NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – 9 ERISKAY ROAD, INVERNESS – 23 FEBRUARY 2015**

**Present:** Alan Thompson (Chair); Alison Wright (Secretary); Ann Reynolds (Acting Treasurer)

Rhona Fraser; Anne Cockroft (Committee Members)

**Apologies:** John Adamson; Andy Leggatt; Eddie Lynch

1. **Notes from the last meeting**

These were accepted as a true and fair record of the meeting.

Actions from the meeting have either been completed or included in today’s agenda.

2. **HGS Accounts for 2014**

AR confirmed that our independent examiner (Ewan) has signed off the society’s accounts with no comment and these can be forwarded to OSCR once they have been presented at the AGM and duly signed by AT. She went over the figures and said that she would be happy to provide clarification if any of the members had questions at the AGM.

Items in the library are valued at approximately £2,500 and Ewan will draft a suitable note to this effect for inclusion with the accounts. It was agreed that Ewan would be given a bottle of wine in thanks for his efforts on the society’s behalf.

**Action**: AT

3. **Chair’s Report and conduct of the AGM**

The Chair’s Report, Accounts, and the Minutes of the 2014 AGM will be circulated prior to Wednesday’s meeting, with additional copies made available for members that night. AT then went through the AGM agenda, noting that he as Chair did not need to be re-elected this year and checking that the other office bearers were prepared to stand for re-election. Stephen Young has been nominated as an additional committee member and this was welcomed by the group. AW said that Martin Gostwick planned to attend the AGM so would be available to speak re affiliation to the Friends of Hugh Miller.

**Action**: AT, AR, AW

4. **Membership Subscriptions**

Many members have already paid their subscriptions for 2015. AT will write to those members who have not renewed after the AGM. AL to check 2014 electronic records and compile a list for RF and AT to check.

**Action**: AL, RF, AT

5. **Future Events**

10 copies of *Crystal Mountain* by Roy Starkey to be offered to members on a sale or return basis. AW to liaise with Roy if additional copies required, allowing members to buy without paying for individual postage and packing.

**Action**: AW to publicise

*Moray Geology Conference* 21-22 March – organisers have offered display board to HGS to promote the society at Moray College and/or Elgin Museum. Other societies have also been approached but not yet clear who has taken up the offer.

**Action:** AT to draft promotional material

*Inverness Science Festival* 9 May – it was agreed to keep a watching brief on this until the organisers respond to our request for further information.

*Mull* 27 April-2 May – AT to email group asking for payment of balance (£70 pp) and to ask for suggestions for excursions and volunteer to coordinate cooking. AW to pay outstanding balance for accommodation to Rachel Glaisher.

**Action**: AT; AW

*Garvellachs* 16-17 May – AW to email participants asking for payment of £25 pp to cover cost of boat hire and to provide further information re travel from Isle of Seil to Isle of Luing. Places will be offered to those on the waiting list if payment not received from current participants by 31 March.

**Action**: AW

*Ben Wyvis* 20 June / *Scatwell* 10 Oct – AW to ask leader for more info for next newsletter. AT noted that there appeared to be very little exposure at Scatwell and to ask for more details of what would be seen on the excursion.

**Action**: AW

*Glenstrathfarrar / Loch Hourn* 12-13 Sep – AW to ask EL for additional information for inclusion in next newsletter.

**Action**: AW; EL

*Inverness Museum* – AT explained that Cait had proposed a joint event to be organised by the museum, most likely in the afternoon, where she could show members the rock collection and explain how the collection is looked after. The supporting paperwork (e.g. field notebooks) is filed separately (and none of the staff are geologists) so there isn’t always a clear link between the collections. Material has been bequeathed to the museum by Hugh Miller, John Buchanan, John Horne, TD Wallis and Baroness Burnett-Coutts. AW suggested that Inverness Field Club may know more about John Horne’s collection (Horne was IFC President) and that Paul Monk might be prepared to do some research on the collections for the museum.

**Action**: AT to liaise

6. **Winter Talks**

It was agreed that the AGM would take place in February 2016, with RF and AT to fix date. AW will undertake to draw up the winter programme, with several useful suggestions for prospective speaker put forward by the group.

**Action**: RF, AT; AW