**NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – MILLBURN ACADEMY, INVERNESS – 29 OCTOBER 2015**

**Present:** Alan Thompson (Chair); Alison Wright (Secretary); Rhona Fraser (Treasurer) (latter part of meeting only)

 Anne Cockroft; Eddie Lynch; Ann Reynolds; Stephen Young (Committee Members)

**Apologies:** John Adamson; Andy Leggatt

1. **Notes from the last meeting**

These were accepted as a true and fair record of the meeting; actions arising from the meeting have been completed.

A brief meeting was held at Killunaig Church House, Mull, on 29 April to confirm the changes in bank signatories following changes in office bearers. This process has now been resolved satisfactorily.

2. **Programme**

AW confirmed that the programme for winter talks was in place, with two events taking place on 17 February. As some members are likely to remain in Inverness, AW agreed to look for a suitable dinner venue in town.

A number of possible leaders and / or localities were suggested by committee members. It was agreed in principle to continue with at least one self-led trip; duration of excursions was also discussed as longer trips do not suit all members but, wherever possible, options are given for people to (e.g.) attend either day of a weekend trip. It was also noted that our recent geographic spread had not been as diverse as some years and AW said that she would try and achieve a better balance but that trips were very much influenced by the availability of leaders.

3. **Communications**

AT noted that we use the website and newsletter as our primary means of contact with society members, an arrangement that appears to be working well. The possibility of running an open Facebook page was discussed and AW will add a note to the next newsletter asking for comments / advice. Members should be encouraged to submit short reports and accompanying pictures to help keep the information fresh.

4. **Health and Safety arrangements**

It was agreed that AT and SY would review our present health & safety arrangements for field trips and redraft forms for further discussion if necessary.

5. **Peter Webster donation**

AT informed the group that he and Peter Reynolds had met with Margaret Webster to thank her for the generous donation of books and money following Peter’s death. Some of the money will be used to fund a subscription to ‘Down to Earth’ and members will be able to pick up at meetings.

Peter’s books will be subsumed into the society’s collection at Inverness Central Library. EL was thanked for his generous contribution of ‘The Geology of Norway’ which will also be added to the collection.

6. **AOCB**

The date of the next meeting is provisionally Thursday 11th February to allow the office bearers to prepare for the AGM; the date is dependent on the accounts being returned by the auditor and will be confirmed nearer the time.