**NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – MILLBURN ACADEMY, INVERNESS – 16 February 2017**

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

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

**Apologies:** John Adamson; Rhona Fraser; Eddie Lynch; Ann Reynolds

0. **Notes from the last meeting**

These were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting.

1. **Annual Report and Accounts**

AT circulated the Annual Report and Accounts prior to the meeting. The report now incorporates all the necessary information for OSCR in a single document and the accounts have been signed off by the external examiner. The committee approved the report and AT will submit the documentation following the AGM.

**Action**: AT

2. **Preparing for the AGM**

All members will be sent the Agenda and Annual Report prior to the meeting, either by email or post as appropriate.

Two committee members have asked to stand down at the AGM (RF and JA) and AT will also relinquish the role of Chair. SY has agreed to stand as Chair and AT as Treasurer, with AW remaining as Secretary. Dave Longstaff and David Jarman have been proposed as additional committee members and, subject to other nominations from the floor, it is anticipated that these changes will be confirmed at the AGM.

AT noted that details of Iain Stewart’s talk, the recent Book Auction, and the change to the Guidelines for Charges at society events would be discussed under AOCB at the AGM. The change to the Guideline information will be notified to members at the AGM; there will be no need to vote on this at the meeting.

**Action**: AT; AW; AL; AC

3. **Programme of Events**

The current newsletter contains information for summer field trips and forthcoming winter talks. The date of the 2018 AGM will be 14 February with the business part of the evening being followed by a review of the field trip season. This would encourage participants to take photographs on the excursions and to share their observations. AW asked about payments for field trips and AT said that electronic transfer of funds was preferable to members sending cheques by post.

AW informed the committee that plans for the ‘special event’ due to take place on 12 April were firming up. SY will investigate the cost of additional insurance (if required); AW will keep a list of participants and issue virtual ticket numbers. AC had prepared an outline flyer that could be used to promote the event; it is planned to distribute flyers at the RSGS meeting in Inverness on 13 March and AW agreed to get permission from the organisers for this. A number of other societies were suggested who might be prepared to distribute details to their own members and AW agreed to liaise with these organisations.

**Action**: AC; AW; SY

4. **Charging for lectures and field trips**

AT circulated proposed changes to the way that the society charges for lectures and field trips. It was agreed that non-members should be charged £5 to attend lectures, thus making a bigger financial differentiation with members who will continue to pay £2. Following attendance at 3 lectures, a non-member would be encouraged to join the society rather than continue to participate on an ad-hoc basis. The changes were approved unanimously and AT will inform members at the AGM (see above note).

**Action**: AT; SY

5. **AOCB**

**Book Auction** – AC noted that this had been a useful exercise and that ~40 books had now found new homes, raising additional funds for the society in the process. Those books that remain will be offered to members at the AGM.

**Action**: AC

**50 Best Places** – The committee agreed that running an event in support of the ’50 Best Places’ geoheritage festival (to be held in Oct 2017) was not be feasible but that we should continue to contribute to the discussion via the Scottish Geodiversity Forum and to conduct site visits within our geographical area if asked.