**NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – MILLBURN ACADEMY, INVERNESS – 21 November 2017**

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

Anne Cockroft; Andy Leggatt; Dave Longstaff; Ann Reynolds (Committee Members)

1. **Apologies:** David Jarman

Note: Stephen was delayed by traffic so missed the discussion re item 8 but the notes are given in agenda order for ease of reference. Item 9 was discussed with Item 3 but is again shown as per the agenda.

2. **Notes from the last meeting and matters arising**

These were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting; there were no outstanding actions and hence no matters arising.

3. **Current financial position**

AT outlined the financial position of the society, which is currently very strong; a number of donations have increased our income and lower than expected expenses for fieldtrips have also reduced our outgoings. Both are due to the generosity of members (or former members) and fieldtrip leaders so are difficult to predict. This does mean that no new financial proposals need to be implemented just now (e.g. changing membership rates / charges for meetings etc.) but we may want to consider how we want to use the surplus generated (e.g. inviting speakers from further afield). It was agreed that no action would be taken now but the situation reviewed again prior to the AGM. **Action**: AT; SY

4. **Summer Excursion Programme – 2018**

A number of suggestions had been made prior to the meeting re possible locations for a week-long self-led trip next year. Eigg was discounted for 2018 as being more suitable for a long weekend. Shetland was also deemed more suitable for a later date as the anticipated guide book has not yet been published. Consequently Arran was considered the most promising option for 2018 as there is a lot of published information about the geology. A trip 21st – 28th April (or the following week) would mean that bracken would not be a problem and AR agreed to investigate the accommodation options available to the group.

The possibility of a long weekend for the group in Strontian was discussed and SY agreed to investigate this further.

Day trips to New Aberdour, Glen Roy and the Ailnack Gorge were put forward and AW will speak to potential leaders re these excursions. DL suggested an evening excursion looking at the building stone of Inverness city centre based on a previous trip led by Sinclair Ross; DL, AR and AW agreed to look for the notes from SMR. **Action**: AR; AW; DL; SY

5. **Future evening lectures – March and April 2018 and Winter 2018/9**

A number of suggested speakers were put forward by the group and AW agreed to contact Ian Parsons (University of Edinburgh) re a possible talk in March. It is still hoped that Mike Simms (National Museums Northern Ireland) might be available in April. **Action**: AW

6. **Arrangements for members’ evening following AGM on 14 February 2018**

It was agreed that the post AGM talk should highlight the field trips undertaken by the society. Many more members attend the talks than the excursions so this would be a good way of showing people what they are missing! AT felt that we should also highlight the considerable contribution that Eddie Lynch made to the society, particularly his willingness to step in at the last minute when the planned leader for the weekend excursion to Rum dropped out. Consequently AT will pull together some images from Eddie’s trips for a 15 -20 minute presentation, followed by DL’s compilation of pictures from Islay this year and AC’s round-up of Mull from 2014 and 2015. Anyone who has photographs of any of these excursions is asked to pass them on to the relevant coordinator. **Action**: AT; SY

20th Feb 2019 was set as the date for the 2019 AGM and it was suggested that this should be a members’ Rock Night.

7. **Renewal (or not) of “Down to Earth” subscription**

It was agreed that a renewal for 15 copies would be made, with the magazine to be sent to SY rather than AT. DL asked if a group subscription to ‘Geology Today’ would be possible and agreed to investigate further. **Action**: DL

8. **Residue of Tony Harris rock/mineral collection**

AL bought the box of mineral specimens which he is storing on behalf of the society to the meeting; the specimens are wrapped and numbered and AW agreed to source some suitable sample bags so that the rocks could be repackaged for further assessment. **Action**: AW

9. **Publication (or not) of accounts on website**

After some discussion, it was agreed that the HGS accounts would not be published on the website but that this would be kept under review, subject to further guidance from OSCR. **Action**: AT; SY

10. **Additional books**

The society has a number of books and papers that are surplus to requirements and not suitable for inclusion in the HGS Library Collection. It was agreed that these would be offered to members at the next meeting (13th Dec) in return for a small donation. SY agreed to forward the list of titles available so that the information could be circulated prior to the meeting. **Action**: SY; AW

11. **Scotland’s Geodiversity: Charter Launch and Conference – 16 November 2017**

SY attended the launch and conference on behalf of the HGS, which is a signatory of the charter. He reported that the event had been well attended and that it afforded a useful networking opportunity for the wider geological community.

12. **AOCB**

There was no AOCB.

13. **Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 1st February 2018 at 6.30 pm at Millburn Academy**, Inverness, to prepare for the AGM being held on 14th February.