**NOTES FROM HGS COMMITTEE MEETING – MILLBURN ACADEMY, INVERNESS – 1 February 2018**

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

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

1. **Apologies:** David Jarman

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

These were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting and there were two matters arising:

Item 7: DL reported that a subscription to ‘Geology Today’ costs £68 per person so this will not be taken further.

Item 8: AL has now bagged and re-labelled the rock specimens donated by Tony Harris. They are nice samples from of a range of UK lithologies but too specialist for a general museum handling box. AW was asked to contact Pete Harrison at the NW Highlands Geopark to see if he could make use of them or if he suggest someone else who might like them. **Action:** AW

3. **Approval of annual report and accounts**

These were approved by the Committee and duly signed by SY in preparation for the forthcoming AGM and for submission to OSCR.

 **Action**: SY; AT

4. **Committee membership**

SY was elected Chair at last year’s AGM for a two-year period so will not require re-election in 2018. The membership must approve the appointment of all other office-bearers and committee members at the AGM. AW stated that she is willing to remain as Secretary for the coming year but, having filled the role since 2010, would like to be replaced in 2019. The death of Eddie Lynch has depleted the committee and it is thus hoped to elect at least one other member. AC said that she is happy to continue but would be willing to step down if other members of the group wish to join the committee. SY agreed to ask for nominations prior to the AGM and to sound out a prospective member for possible nomination.

**Action**: SY

5. **Conduct of the AGM**

Information about the AGM will be circulated with the appropriate papers before the meeting. SY agreed to draft a covering note and AW will email the details to the membership and post the papers to those members not using email for correspondence.

 **Action**: SY; AW

6. **Programme of events**

AW updated the committee on progress re the summer programme.

Plans for the week-long excursion to Arran are continuing. At present AW is maintaining the list of participants but it was agreed that this would be passed to AR to manage. **Action**: AW; AR

It was agreed that the Ariundle Centre would be a better base for the excursion to Strontian 8-11 June and AW agreed to book accommodation for 6 people at the centre (one twin-room, one 4-bedded room).

Dates for day-trips in July and August still have to be arranged and AW will ask the prospective leaders to confirm ASAP.

The NW Highlands trip will run 1-2 Sep, with the group based in Ullapool. This weekend will be used to launch the Achiltibuie Geology Trail as part of the NW Highlands Geopark Geofestival. It was agreed that £100 would be donated to the geopark in return for Pete Harrison (PH) leading the weekend.

**Action**: AW; AT

DL circulated information about stone used in Inverness shop-fronts compiled by Sinclair Ross for a previous evening excursion. This took place some years ago and it was agreed that a recce of the city centre would be undertaken on 19 March to see how much revision was required. The group will meet outside the Central Library at 10.30 am. **Action**: all

7. **AOCB**

**Amendments to 2018 membership/renewal form**: A number of minor amendments to the membership form have been considered by SY, AT and AW to take account of updated legislation re data protection that is due to come into force later this year. AC is involved in similar discussions with NOSAS and agreed to pass on pertinent information to SY for further consideration. **Action**: AC; SY

**NW Highlands Geopark**: At the recent AGM held by the NW Highlands Geopark it was suggested that a ‘friends scheme’ should be set up which would allow for group/corporate membership, donations and offers of help. The original proposal was to make group membership £100 PA and the HGS committee were asked by PH to comment on this. It was agreed that £100 was a suitable subscription as supporting the geopark is consistent with our charitable aims and objectives. It wasn’t thought necessary to ask for any tangible benefit in return but our support could be credited on information produced by the geopark. AW was asked to pass this information to PH. **Action**: AW

**Post-IODP Conference 30 May-6 June**: Stephen Bowden (SB) from the University of Aberdeen has asked for HGS support during an international conference that he is organising in Ullapool for members of a 2016 IODP deployment to the Nankai Trough, offshore Japan. AW was asked to contact SB and ask for greater clarification in order for us to determine what support we could offer. **Action**: AW

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

It was not considered necessary to set the date for the next committee meeting at this juncture.