

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 28 January 2010

PRESENT: L E Frostick (*Chair*), P Allen (*Secretary, Science*), I D Bartholomew, M Brown, M Daly, E Derbyshire (*Secretary, External and Foreign Affairs*), A J Fleet (*Treasurer*), C M R Fowler, R Herrington, R A Hughes, A Lord, B Lovell (*President designate*), J Ludden, P Maliphant, S Marriott, S Monro, G W Tuckwell, D J Vaughan and N R G Walton

APOLOGIES: A Law, D A C Manning (*Secretary, Professional Matters*), J D Marshall and J Turner (*Secretary, Publications*)

In attendance: E F P Nickless (*Executive Secretary*), N Bilham (*Head of Strategy & External Relations*), M Kyriakides (*Head of Finance*) and S L Culver (*PA to Executive Secretary*)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies as above were noted.

2. REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

The Chair reported that eleven nominations had been received. She read out the nominations for ordinary members of Council and said that the Elections Standing Committee did not recommend any of these candidates being supported preferentially and had recommended that the names were put to the Fellowship on an equal basis.

Council accepted the recommendations of the Elections Standing Committee and agreed that the names of all candidates should be published in the February edition of *Geoscientist* together with a ballot paper. Voting will also be available online.

3. OFFICERS MEETING

The Chair reported that a meeting of Officers had been held to discuss the opening hours of Burlington House. The recommendation was that although the Library would remain open until 5.30pm the Society should introduce a last time admission policy similar to other organisations such as museums. The latest time for admittance to the building would be 5.00pm which would give sufficient time to latecomers to do any research work and the Library staff time to clear away in an orderly manner. An arrangement would be introduced so that those who wished to be admitted after 5.00pm could do so by contacting Reception before noon on the day of their proposed visit.

Council AGREED with the recommendation which would come into effect from 6 April with the Fellowship being notified in March *Geoscientist*.

4. EARTH SCIENCES IN THE 21st CENTURY: A FORWARD LOOK

The Chair reported that a joint meeting, attended by younger researchers across the geosciences with representation from BGS and NERC headquarters staff, had been held on 18 and 19 January. A report will be produced and will come back to Council.

5. ELECTIONS

5.1 Fellowship (CM/01/10)

Council agreed to recommend to the Fellowship that those candidates listed in CM/01/10 should be elected as Fellows at the OGM on 28 January 2010.

5.2 Chartered Geologists (CM/02/10)

The applications from Fellows to become Chartered Geologists listed in CM/02/10 had been approved by the Chartership Panel and were agreed by Council.

5.3 Candidate and Junior Candidate Fellowship (CM/03/10)

Council agreed to admit those applicants listed in CM/03/10 as Candidate Fellows and Junior Candidate Fellows.

5.4 Chartered Scientist (CM/04/10)

Council agreed to admit the applicant named in CM/04/10 as a Chartered Scientist.

5.5 Honorary Fellows (CM/05/10)

Council agreed to recommend to the Fellowship that Aubrey Manning, Sospeter Muhongo and Iain Stewart should be elected as Honorary Fellows at the OGM on 28 January 2010.

(S Monro left the meeting)

6. NOVEMBER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (CM/06/10)

The budget was exceeded by some £43k in November due to the success of the Publishing House in all areas of its income with very little increase in cost. This excess was achieved in spite of Burlington House being £25k below budget, although this was mainly due to timing differences on income from two Petroleum Group meetings which were held in December but budgeted in November. There was also some additional investment income in deposits on the maturity of several cash deposits in December.

The savings made by online journals are being analysed but there are currently 85% of the Fellowship taking the electronic versions. A report will be made to the next meeting of Council.

The current year end forecast is a deficit of £165k compared to a budgeted deficit of £448k.

(R Hughes left the meeting)

7. VALIDATION APPEAL (CM/07/10)

This item is minuted in a confidential annex.

8. REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE – HOUSE OF LORDS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT ENQUIRY (2010) (CM/08/10)

The House of Lords Science & Technology Committee is undertaking a limited

enquiry into the work of CoRWM and put around a call for submissions to a small number of organisations including the Geological Society. The Society's draft response was circulated for comment to the Radioactive Waste Contact Group.

The draft response had been well received by that group who were supportive that, if approved by Council, the Society should offer its services and provide independent geological scrutiny, as set out in the memorandum.

Some members of Council expressed their disquiet at the Society acting as scrutineers on the basis that this went beyond the remit of the Society and that it was potentially offering a contract without knowing how extensive the work would be. It was suggested that it would be more appropriate for the Society to offer its services in a co-ordinating role although John Ludden was still concerned and dissented from the decision.

It was agreed that the submission should be re-drafted and circulated to Council for approval.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is 21 April 2010