

SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 17 May 2011

PRESENT: Philip Allen (*Chair*), John Arthur (*Near Surface Geophysics Group*), David Entwistle (*Engineering Group*), Gawen Jenkin (*Mineral Deposits Studies Group*), Alan Lord (*External Relations*), Julian Mecklenburgh (*Tectonic Studies Group*), Dick Moody (*History of Geology Group*), Bob Pankhurst (*BEC*), David Pyle (*Volcanic & Magmatic Studies Group*), Nicky Robinson (*Hydrogeological Group*), Sir Crispin Tickell (*Gaia: Earth Systems Science Group*) & Eva Valsami-Jones (*Environment Network*)

APOLOGIES: Richard Herrington, Colin Summerhayes, John Tellam, Geochemistry Group, Geological Remote Sensing Group & Tectonic Studies Group

In attendance: Mark Anderson (Regional Groups representative), Angharad Hills (Commissioning Editor), Edmund Nickless (Executive Secretary) & Georgina Worrall (Conference Manager)

1. APOLOGIES
Apologies noted above.
2. MINUTES OF SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2011
Minutes agreed.
3. MATTERS ARISING
All matters arising from the previous meeting will be addressed in the minutes below.
4. MEETINGS
 - 4a. Calendar
The May Geoscientist calendar was noted.

Work programme of the Conference Office
The Conference Office work programme was noted.
 - 4b. **Update on Meetings**
Update reports were given on the following meetings and were noted by Committee. The Committee was pleased with the progress of all the meetings.
 - i. Dynamic Topography – 1-2 September 2011
 - ii. Fermor Meeting 2011: Ore Deposits in an Evolving Earth – 7-9 September 2011
 - iii. William Smith Meeting 2011: Remote sensing of volcanoes and volcanic processes – 4-5 October 2011
 - iv. Lyell Meeting 2011: Islands – 24 October 2011
 - v. Frontiers Meeting: The coupling between tectonics & surface processes – 14 November 2011
 - vi. Fermor Meeting 2012: The Neoproterozoic Era – 19-21 September 2012
 - vii. Water Futures – 6-7 March 2012

Angharad Hills reported that discussions are taking place regarding a publication from the Anthropocene conference held in May, and that Special Publication proposals have been approved for the William Smith & Lyell 2011 meetings. She also informed the Committee that there is scope for a Special Publication from the Fermor Meeting 2012.

Regarding the Water Futures conference, it was recommended that the convenors contact other relevant Specialist Groups to get input into the programme content and to ensure all appropriate geoscience disciplines are covered within the conference programme. The Environment Network will use the conference as a platform for broader involvement of geoscientists interested in the environment. NR

Alan Lord informed the Committee of the success of the joint GSL/GSA session on 'Teleconnections' held at EGU in Vienna in April 2011. Plans are that GSA will take the lead on the 2012 EGU GSL/GSA session. In addition, the EGU outreach committee are interested in establishing a forum for national geoscience committees at the Annual Assembly, including GSL. Philip Allen, Edmund Nickless, Alan Lord and Nic Bilham will be meeting shortly to discuss the Society's presence in Europe.

5. CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

i. Strata and Time - 4-6 September 2012

The Committee agreed that the proposal submitted is very strong and fits very well into the criteria for William Smith meetings, so was approved as the William Smith meeting for 2012.

Angharad Hills informed the Committee that she has been in touch with the convenors regarding a Special Publication.

ii. Rock deformation - 30 May - 1 June 2012

The Committee approved this proposal, but suggested that the convenors consider including aspects of engineering applications within the programme. The convenors are also asked to consider producing a Special Publication.

The Committee asked to see a skeleton conference programme at the next Committee meeting. JM

The Chair reminded the representative of Tectonic Studies Group (Julian Mecklenburgh) that there was little leeway to allow the schedule to slip, and that keynote speakers and sponsorship should be arranged as soon as possible.

iii. The first century of Isotope Geochronology - September 2013

The Committee approved this conference proposal, and again would like to see a skeleton programme at the next meeting. DC (not present at meeting)

iv. Appreciating Physical Landscapes - September 2012

Dick Moody (HOGG) explained the increasing importance of Geotourism. The Committee approved this meeting as a Society conference, but not as a William Smith meeting. It was recommended that the meeting be held in October or TH

November 2012 as the September calendar of the Conference Office is congested. The Committee would like to see a skeleton programme at the next meeting.

v. Holocene Climate Change

The Committee warmly received the informal proposal from Colin Summerhayes. The Chair drew attention to the strong focus on climate change and asked whether other aspects of the Holocene would be covered in the programme. The Chair will contact the organizers to ask about the scope of the meeting and to request a formal conference proposal to be considered at the next Committee meeting. CS

The chairman will notify those who submitted conference proposals informing them that their proposals have been accepted and will provide feedback on the proposals as appropriate. He noted that the Science Committee is now receiving many strong conference proposals, which is very encouraging, but means that submission of proposals is starting to become more competitive. PA

6. 2012 SHELL LONDON SERIES

Shell University Lecture Series

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that it looks likely that Shell will not renew their sponsorship the University Lecture Series. Once Shell have received and considered the Society's proposals for renewal over the period 2012-2014, the Society will confirm with Shell as to whether or not they are renewing the University Lecture Series, and if Shell declines to renew, then the Society will either seek another sponsor for the series or will consider internal funding. The Committee agreed that the Society should continue a university lecture series, as it is key that the Society engages with young scientists. A bid will go to Council for the Society, if necessary, to finance a series of 6 regional lectures for 2012.

In the meantime, the Committee is asked to consider a potential theme for the 2012 lecture series, and suggest speakers and/or topics, so that a final programme of lectures can be approved at the next meeting. ALL

Shell London Lecture Series

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that a proposal has been sent to Shell for renewal of the London Lectures for the years 2012-2014. Within the proposal, the Society has discussed how it will market the lecture series to a more diverse audience and how it will expand the online presence of the lecture series through social media networks.

It was suggested that for cohesion, future London Lecture Series should have an umbrella theme, broad enough to cover a wide range of topics of interest to the public. The Chairman suggest two titles reflecting the importance of geoscience to society and building on recent media interest:

- (i) The Age of Man: Geology in Society, and
- (ii) Paradise Lost? Geology in the Age of Man

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A straw poll suggested that the second theme title was preferred. The Committee was asked to suggest speakers and/or topics, to join the list tabled, ALL

so that a programme of lectures can be formulated over the summer and approved at the next meeting in September.

Note: From the existing list of suggested speakers and topics, several would be suitable for the themed London Lecture series for 2012, including those on ground engineering, engineering geomorphology, forensic geology, sea-level rise, Geology & Art, the Odysseus project on Ithaca. However, more suggestions are needed.

7. BUILDING LINKS BETWEEN REGIONAL & SPECIALIST GROUPS

Mark Anderson introduced this topic. The Committee agreed that there needs to be better dialogue between the Regional and Specialist Groups, which are overseen by the Professional and Science Committees respectively. It was suggested that the Chair should initiate a discussion with the incoming Chair of Professional Committee, regarding how the Science and Professional Committees can work better together, with the objective that Regional Groups are able to gain better access to information on possible speakers and field trip leaders for events being held in their regions. This will also help the visibility of the Geological Society in its outreach.

PA

8. ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Eva Valsami-Jones reported that the Environment Network will formally launch in July with an article in *Geoscientist*, and that she and David Vaughan are currently working on getting content for the online Network presence. She informed the Committee that she and David Vaughan are planning on setting up a blog as means of communicating with an audience wider than the Society's Fellowship.

The Environment Network have been working with the convenors of the Water Futures conference, and will be formally putting in a proposal at the next Committee meeting to bid to run the next Frontiers meeting in 2012.

EVJ

Specialist Group representatives were encouraged to inform their Groups about the launch of the Network and to provide recommendations for suitable content for the Network webpage.

ALL

9. PUBLICATION REPORT

A report on the publication proposals accepted since the last meeting and financial data of selected GSL titles were included within the papers.

Angharad Hills informed the Committee that the Thompson-Reuter (ISI) database will cite authors of GSL Special Publications later in 2011.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING