

Annual General Meeting of the North West Highlands Geopark Ltd, 23rd October 2021

13:00 – 13:40, virtually via Zoom

In Attendance

Board Members:

IY	Iain Young	<i>Chair, Projects</i>
AM	Ann Macloed	<i>Vice-Chair, Coigach, Fundraising</i>
NH	Natasha Hutchison	<i>Lochbroom</i>
MM	Murdo MacPherson	<i>Kinlochbervie, Communications</i>
CH	Crawford Hunt	<i>Treasurer</i>
JM	Jean Mackay	<i>Elected</i>
DC	Don Campbell	<i>Durness</i>

Staff Members:

LH	Laura Hamlet	<i>Geopark Manager</i>
PH	Pete Harrison	<i>Geopark Geologist</i>
AM (Admin)	Alison MacPherson	<i>Geopark Administrator</i>

Members Alastair Mackay, Fran Harrison, Nigel Carr, Brendan O’Hanrahan, Lynda McKenna, John Hedger, Katja Riek, Joan D’Arcy

Other Attendees Ivan Munro

Apologies Tim Hamlet, Andy Moffat, Val Moffat, Roger Lister, Alex Scott, Meryl Carr, Malcolm Bangor-Jones, Elisabeth Tønsberg

Proxies Received Tim Hamlet, Andy Moffat, Val Moffat, Alex Scott, Meryl Carr, Elisabeth Tønsberg

Facilitator: Iain Young, *Acting Chair*

Note Taker: Alison MacPherson, *Geopark Administrator*

Appointment of Teller: Laura Hamlet, *Geopark Manager*

Agenda

Business

1. Welcome and appointment of tellers IY
2. Roll Call LH
3. Apologies IY
4. Approval of [previous minutes](#) IY
5. Matters arising IY
6. Reports IY
 - a. Chair's Introduction IY
 - b. [Annual report](#) LH & PH
7. The [Annual](#) financial statements CH
8. The fixing of members' annual subscriptions IY
9. The election of the Board members IY
10. Any Other Competent Business

Close

Minutes

1. Welcome and Appointment of Tellers

IY as Acting Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending, and thanks was given to the Scottish Geological Trust for providing their Zoom account for our AGM. LH to act as teller if need be and AM (Admin) to minute.

2. Roll Call

19 members were present (listed above).

3. Apologies

Listed above.

4. Approval of previous minutes

Proposed by DC and seconded by AM.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Reports

IY thanked everyone involved in running the charity and trading arm. Despite another year of Covid challenges the team has been able to accomplish a huge amount. The team has grown this year to include AM (Admin) as Geopark Administrator, Fraser Gibbs as the Durness Geopark Ranger, Matthew Whitney as Fundraiser, and all the staff at the Rock Stop – Jonathan Archer, Keith Richards, Dave Richards, and Alison Murray. IY also thanked all the volunteers - particularly those who helped out with IT support and at the Rock Stop.

LH summarised the annual report (link available in agenda above) highlighting the Geopark's mission statement and 6 strategic objectives. The Rock Stop was able to open again for the season this year and thanks was given again to the Rock Stop team who have done an amazing job keeping it going. There has been a lot of activity over the year building on the Geopark's capacity and preparing for recruiting more staff.

Geotours restarted this year with limited numbers due to Covid. PH led 3 Geotours and a number of Knockan Crag walks for NatureScot. There was a promising number of sign-ups for the new Ambassador and Supporter Scheme with over 50 businesses signed up and prepared to work with the Geopark. PH intends to start delivering the Ambassador training at the end of November and in December.

IY gave an update on the Inchnadamph Lodge: in collaboration with other stakeholders, a lot of time and energy was put into a bid for the lodge to secure it as a field centre and community hub and IY thanked everyone who helped with this work. Although the lodge is now in the process of being purchased by another party, the new owner plans to keep the lodge as a hostel and place for students.

7. The Annual Financial Statements

CH gave a summary of the annual accounts. Finance is looking good for the next year and IY requests that members share with their local communities that the Geopark is in good financial health.

Acceptance of the accounts proposed by Nigel Carr and seconded by DM.

8. The Fixing of Members' Annual Subscriptions

IY proposes we keep the subscription at £0 and NH seconded. No objections or counter proposals.

9. The Election of the Board Members

David Macleod is resigning as elected director from Tongue Community Council. IY gave thanks to David for all his input and support. A replacement director from Tongue Community Council is yet to be found.

IY resigned and stood for re-election to the board. AM proposes IY is re-elected with no objections. A board meeting will follow the AGM to appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair.

10. Any Other Competent Business

None.

IY thanks everyone for attending the AGM and requests members share the annual reports with their friends, family and local communities. The more Geopark stories we can share the more we can engage with the Geopark's communities in the following year.

Meeting closed @ 13:40