

# Annual General Meeting of the North West Highlands Geopark Ltd, 27th October 2022

## Agenda

19:00 - 21:00 virtually, by Zoom

[Company articles](#)

### Business

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Welcome and appointment of tellers              | IY      |
| 2. Roll Call                                       | LH      |
| 3. Apologies                                       | IY      |
| 4. Approval of <a href="#">previous minutes</a>    | IY      |
| 5. Matters arising                                 | IY      |
| 6. Reports   |         |
| a. Chair's Introduction                            | IY      |
| b. <a href="#">Annual report</a>                   | LH & PH |
| 7. Special resolutions                             | IY      |
| 8. <a href="#">The Annual financial statements</a> | CH      |
| 9. The fixing of members' annual subscriptions     | IY      |
| 10. The election of the Board members              | IY      |
| 11. Any Other Competent Business                   | IY      |

## In Attendance

### Board Members

<b>IY</b>	Iain Young	<i>Chair, Projects</i>
<b>AM</b>	Ann Macloed	<i>Vice-Chair, Coigach, Fundraising</i>
<b>MM</b>	Marion Milligan	<i>Tongue</i>
<b>MM</b>	Murdo MacPherson	<i>Kinlochbervie, Communications</i>
<b>CH</b>	Crawford Hunt	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>JM</b>	Jean Mackay	<i>Elected</i>

### Staff Members

<b>LH</b>	Laura Hamlet	<i>Geopark Manager</i>
<b>PH</b>	Pete Harrison	<i>Geopark Geologist</i>

**JA** Jonathan Archer *Geopark Projects*  
**AM** Alison MacPherson *Geopark Senior Administrator*  
**(Admin)**

**Members** Venessa Ling, David Slator, Iain Allison, Mike Orr, Lynda Mckenna, Merylyn Hedger, Fran Harrison, Alan Balfour, Kate Copestake, Katja Riek, Kit Eatock

**Other Attendees** John McLellan, Katherine Douglas, Christopher Varley, Phil Olsen, Sarah Spoons, Gary Eisenhauer, Angus Miller, Franci Hutchison, Joshua Wilson, David Grant, Nina Peskett, Denis Mollison, Siobhan Beatson, Andrew Whyte

**Apologies** Marie-Anne Hutchison, Natasha Hutchison, Liam Taylor

**Proxies Received** None

**Facilitator:** Iain Young

**Note Taker:** Alison MacPherson

**Appointment of Teller:** Laura Hamlet, Alison MacPherson

## Minutes

### 1 Welcome and appointment of tellers

IY welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked on the good turnout.

LH and AM (Admin) appointed as tellers.

### 2 Roll call

21 Members of the Geopark present. See above 'In Attendance'.

### 3 Apologies

See above 'In Attendance'.

## 4 Approval of previous minutes

MM (KLB) proposed, AM seconded.

## 5 Matters arising

None

## 6 Reports

- a. **Chairs Introduction** - IY explains that the past year has been transformational for the Geopark. The Geopark is in a better place financially than ever before; a larger team of volunteers and staff members; achieved things we've never managed to achieve before; and plans and aspirations are in place for 2023 and beyond. IY thanks everyone involved - Friends of the Geopark, Members of the Geopark, Supporters, Ambassadors, volunteers and staff.
- b. **Annual Report** - LH gave a summary of the [Annual Report](#) and encourages everyone to share the report far and wide. We are becoming more professional in how we approach management with our first operational plan, new staff induction process, an updated business plan and continuing to participate in the Global Geopark Network. LH acknowledged all the funders who have supported us this year. LH also welcomed Andrew Whyte to his new role as Geopark Education & Engagement Officer - he will be working particularly with local schools and on the Young Geologists Club. LH also welcomed some of our Marine Heritage researchers who were present at the meeting - we will be producing a marine heritage web portal soon working together with our researchers and communities.
- c. **Geologist Report** - PH gave a summary of the year's events. There were 3 Geotours this year - catching up after years missed due to Covid19, and welcoming participants who were unable to attend previously. We've had 2 winter seasons of Geoheritage Festival Zoom talks - 6 or 7 talks hosted over winter, every month, with a special speaker. Due to the capacity of the format, we have been able to welcome larger numbers of people to the talks and it has been common to have over 100 attendees. Special thanks goes to the Friends of the Geopark who help to finance these activities. A particular theme right now is the Stac Fada meteorite ejecta - we've had leading researchers visit this year and there are plans for a symposium next autumn. PH thanks the Ambassadors and Supporters also - the scheme has been running for over a year and almost all participants have been really engaged with the Geopark.

IY concludes the reports by again encouraging everyone to share the Annual Report as widely as they wish and reminds that we are always looking for feedback.

## 7 Special resolutions

A vote amongst members is held on two special resolutions for amendment to the Articles of Association.

[Special Resolution 1](#) - Article 4, proposed change, to add "*f. To promote the Geopark in its gateway communities*". Vanessa Ling proposes change is adopted, Fran Harrison seconds. Approved by the meeting.

[Special Resolution 2](#) - Article 51, proposed change, to add "Each of the Assynt, Coigach, Durness, Kinlochbervie, Lochbroom, Scourie and Tongue Community Councils (or their successors in the event of any local government reorganisation) shall be able to nominate one of their members - *or any person ordinarily resident in the respective Community Council area*, to be a director, such directors to serve until the community council concerned replaces them (subject to Article 54, except (c) and (f)). David Slator proposes change is adopted, Iain Allison seconds. Approved by the meeting.

## 8 The annual financial statements

CH gave a summary of the [Annual Accounts](#). Total funds have increased from 107k to 141k - a 30% increase, which is considerable for the time frame. The Geopark is in a good position and is looking to remain on a similar trajectory for the following year.

IY thanks CH and adds that this is testament to the hard work of everyone involved with the Charity and Trading Arm.

AM proposes the meeting accepts the accounts, Katja Riek seconds. Annual Accounts accepted by meeting.

## 9 The fixing of members annual subscriptions

IY proposes the same subscription as last year - £0.00. Fran Harrison seconds. Approved by the meeting.

## 10 Election of board members

IY gave thanks to Jean Mackay who is stepping down from the board this AGM. Jean has been involved with the Geopark for many years and plans to stay on as a volunteer. Thanks is also given to Malcolm Bangor-Jones who is leaving Assynt and thus standing down from the board after many years as Assynt director. Assynt CC has nominated a new director. Since our previous AGM, Marion Milligan has joined the board as director for Tongue.

No nominations for directors at the meeting.

## **11 Any other competent business**

None

## **Close**

David Grant, Franci Hutchison and Josh Wilson from Highland Stoneware provided a presentation on their geological glazes project.

PH thanks Highland Stoneware for their talk - a prime example of how the Geopark can work together with local businesses in geoheritage. IY also thanks Highland Stoneware and thanks everyone for attending. This closed the AGM.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm.