

# The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

## Minutes of the eighteenth meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19 July 2005.

**Present:** Allan Rogers, Chairman

Chris King, Vice-Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit/Geological Society of London)

David Bailey, Secretary (British Geological Survey)

Cally Oldershaw, ESEF(EW) Development Officer

Susan Brown (Geologists' Association/Rockwatch)

Colin Osborne (Royal Society of Chemistry)

Tim Parry (*vice* Ian Thomas, National Stone Centre & Quarry Products Association)

Gordon Riddler (Applied Earth Science Division, IOM<sup>3</sup>/MIRO)

Martin Whiteley (Earth Science Teachers' Association)

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Warren and representatives of the following member organisations: Association for Science Education, Capita Symonds, Challenger Society, Committee of Heads of University Geosciences Departments, Gemmological Association/Gem Testing Laboratory, Geographical Association, Geological Curators' Group, Geology Trusts, Health and Safety Executive, National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Neath–Port Talbot County Borough Council, Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers, Royal Meteorological Society, SETNET, UKRIGS.

### 2 Chairman's Introduction

- 2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited round-table introductions.
- 2.2 The Chairman reminded members that the Forum had been planning to hold a meeting in Wales during September but deferred a full report to Agenda Item 7.
- 2.3 The Chairman reminded members of the need to respond to requests from the Development Officer for information and feedback.

### 3 Minutes of the seventeenth meeting, 17 May 2005

The minutes of the seventeenth meeting were accepted as a true record, subject to minor corrections.

David Bailey to upload a copy to the ESEF(EW) website.

**Action: David Bailey**

### 4 Matters arising

*[Numbers in square brackets are paragraph numbers from the minutes of the previous meeting.]*

- [2.6] *All-Party Earth Science Group meeting on natural hazards:* Chris King reported that the Royal Society were planning a two-day meeting on a similar theme to be held on 26/27 October 2005. Cally Oldershaw confirmed that the Communications Director at the Royal Society was aware of the proposed APESG meeting proposed for 8 November. The Chairman noted that the theme of the APESG meeting was focused more closely on education and intended for a parliamentary audience.

### 5 Annual Meeting and Constitution

- 5.1 The Chairman reminded members that the theme of "Earth Science Education and Society" had been proposed for the Annual Conference. Not much progress had been made in developing the programme because effort had been focused on developing the APESG meeting on natural hazards. There had also been input from members in response to the Development Officer's request for feedback and suggestions.

- 5.2 Gordon Riddler reported that several major organisations were in the process of setting up a Mineral Industry Education Project to address a potential future shortage of earth science recruits. One of the first requirements would be to benchmark where resources intended to promote earth science and mining engineering careers were currently being focused, and which were most effective. He suggested that the Annual Conference might address these questions.
- 5.3 The Chairman welcomed this suggestion and asked members to allow the Forum's officers to develop the Conference programme outwith the meeting, to seek feedback via correspondence once the outline had been developed, and to report at the next meeting. This was unanimously **AGREED**. **Action: Forum Officers**

## **6 Finance report**

- 6.1 Cally Oldershaw reported that £24k of Aggregates Levy Sustainability Funding had now been received via the University of Exeter, in addition to the £5k received from Anglo American and £5k from Foster Yeoman.
- 6.2 A sum of £2.5k had been paid to cover the costs of designing and printing the Annual Conference 2004 report. Out-of-pocket expenses had been paid to the Chairman and Development Officer. The Development Office had also been paid for time spent on Forum business at the previously agreed rate.
- 6.3 Cally Oldershaw reported that the handling of the Forum's finances by IOM<sup>3</sup> was working efficiently.

## **7 Development Officer's report**

- 7.1 A provisional date of 13 September had been set for a meeting of the Chairman, Peter Warren, Cally Oldershaw, Chris King, Mike Bassett, Allan Cuthbertson and Peter Jones to discuss the promotion of the Forum in Wales.
- 7.2 The Chairman reported that the Welsh Assembly Member for the Rhondda had been invited to chair an All-Party Group for Earth Sciences in the Welsh Assembly, but he was unable to help. The Chairman said that, at the meeting on 13 September, he intended to propose instead that the Forum be proactive in holding regular meetings in Wales to which AMs would be invited. These meetings would provide a forum for promoting member organisations in Wales.
- 7.3 The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the new Minister for Higher Education concerning the proposed advisory committee for earth science. The Minister said that he was unable to fund the proposal for 2005/06 but that it will be considered again in 2006/07. However, as education was devolved in Wales, it would be necessary to approach the Welsh Assembly also. The former Minister, Dr Howells, had said that he felt the DTI should be involved too.
- 7.4 Cally Oldershaw reported that English Nature had indicated they wished to join the Forum, but were waiting for recent changes to the structure of the organisation to take effect. There were no other new members.
- 7.5 Most of the reports of the Annual Conference 2004 had now been disseminated. Conference delegates, chairs of parliamentary committees and other key individuals had now been sent copies.
- 7.6 The Development Officer had also spent time developing the application to the Charity Commission. Further discussion was deferred to Agenda Item 12.
- 7.7 The dates of forthcoming meetings of the APESG were notified as follows:
- 18 October: *The Falklands: Another North Sea?* Speakers: Colin Phipps (Desire) and a speaker from BGS. Keynote: HE Mr William Marsden, formerly Ambassador to Argentina.
- 8 November: Meeting on natural disasters (see Agenda Item 4).

15 November: *Repair or Rebuild?* Speakers: Chris Wood (English Heritage), Alan Thompson (Capita Symonds)

## **8 ESEF(EW) website (www.esef.org.uk)**

- 8.1 Visitor statistics for the quarter ending 30 June 2005 were tabled. Visits and downloads of conference abstracts and meeting minutes continue to rise. While still modest, the growth in activity is encouraging.
- 8.2 Actions to add diary and education links were outstanding. **Action: David Bailey**

## **9 Potential collaborative projects**

- 9.1 Tim Parry reported that the QPA had secured Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund support for a 22 month project to develop a virtual quarry website (virtualquarry.co.uk). One part of the website featured a three-dimensional environment in which the materials used in city buildings are traced back to a virtual quarry. Alongside this there would be about 20 educational units aimed at Key Stages 1 to 4. Forum members were invited to contribute to the development of the website. It was reported that ESTA, ESEU and BGS have been involved in this project.
- 9.2 Chairman reminded members to provide any examples in writing at future meetings.

## **10 SESEF update**

Chris King reported that the SESEF Development Officer, Hamish Ross, would be resigning from his post shortly. It was not yet clear whether SESEF would be appointing a replacement. The Chairman asked Chris King to congratulate SESEF and Hamish on the success of his stint as SESEF Development Officer, to wish Hamish all the best in his future career, and to offer the services of ESEF in helping SESEF to recruit a new Development Officer. **Action: Chris King**

## **11 Government policy issues**

The issue of energy policy was discussed. Chris King suggested that future energy supply might be a suitable subject for a series of future APESG meetings. Martin Whiteley reported that the Geological Society of London was planning two linked meetings on this subject in October and November (*Challenges and Solutions: UK energy to 2050*, a two-day meeting at Burlington House followed a month later by a half-day meeting at the Royal Society). The Chairman noted Chris King's suggestion and said that, as the APESG meetings were much shorter and aimed particularly at parliamentarians, they would not necessarily cut across the GSL initiative if scheduled carefully.

## **12 Charity Commission**

- 12.1 Cally Oldershaw reported that the potential trustees identified at the seventeenth meeting had been sent copies of the Charity Commission's *Essential Trustee* document and a model constitution. It was **AGREED** that four members or a tenth of the membership, whichever was greater, would constitute a quorum.
- 12.2 Gordon Riddler asked if all the members had been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed constitution. Cally Oldershaw confirmed that this was the case and that there had been no dissent from any members.
- 12.3 The Chairman, with the agreement of the members present, asked Gordon Riddler if he would be prepared to act as Treasurer. Professor Riddler accepted.
- 12.4 Cally Oldershaw read out the proposed wording for the charity's objects and activities and, with minor amendments to permit more flexibility in the Forum's activities, these were **AGREED**.
- 12.5 The Constitution was adopted (proposed Susan Brown; seconded Martin Whiteley; **AGREED** unanimously).

### **13 Forum Officers**

It was proposed that the following Officers be elected en bloc: (proposed Tim Parry; seconded Colin Osborne):

Chairman: Allan Rogers  
Vice-Chairman: Chris King  
Treasurer: Gordon Riddler  
Secretary: David Bailey  
Development Officer: Cally Oldershaw

This was **AGREED** unanimously and the officers formally elected.

### **14 AOB**

There was no other business.

### **15 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be on **Tuesday 27 September 2005** at IOM<sup>3</sup> in 1 Carlton House Terrace at 1.30 p.m. (subject to confirmation that a room is available)<sup>1</sup>.

David Bailey 19 July 2005

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<sup>1</sup> This meeting was subsequently brought forward to 20 September 2005.