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MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE REMOTE SENSING AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SOCIETY

Thursday 13th September 2007, 5.30 pm, Room A, The Armstrong Building, University of Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK

The Chairman, S Marsh, opened the meeting at 5.50 pm, welcomed members and requested that they record their attendance on the register; attendance of the AGM is presented in Annex 1.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: D Boyd, M Cooper, V Lawrence, R Payne, D Rhind, S Walker, R Stokes and R Taft.

2 Adoption of the Agenda

It was proposed by S Marsh that the Agenda be adopted. P Mason seconded this and all were in favour.

3 Approval of the 2006 AGM Minutes

S Marsh requested any comments or queries. There were none. The 2006 AGM Minutes were then signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last AGM but S Marsh asked for any comments. R Vaughan requested clarification on Informa's involvement in the organisation of RSPSoc2006. S Marsh explained that Informa handled delegate registration and the commercial exhibition, and that the latter had been viewed as an experiment; Informa were not involved in the organisation of RSPSoc2007.

5 Annual Review and Accounts

S Marsh referred members to the Annual Review and Accounts.

5.1 Changes to Council membership in the Review Period

P Mason reported that M Cutler and J Drummond had completed their first term on Council and that J Norton had resigned. I Woodhouse had been elected as a new member and M Cutler and J Drummond had been re-elected for their second terms. K Anderson had been co-opted to Council for one year. The Student Representative was R Gaulton and T Thomson became the new Shadow Student Representative.

It was further noted that R Hore replaced R McCabe at the RSPSoc office. Both R Hore and K Laughton were thanked for their efforts over the past year.

5.2 External Affairs

S Marsh reported that the Society's position, with respect to External Affairs, had been consolidated at the European, International and UK levels.

RSPSoc is currently the adhering body to the ISPRS, with the collaboration of RICS and ICES. ISPRS subscription is shared between RSPSoc, RICS and ICES. EARSeL and EUROSDR are also involved at ISPRS Committee level. There is considerable UK involvement in ISPRS Working Groups under various Commissions and J Mills is leading the 2008-12 Commission, with RSPSoc support. The UK Exhibition at ISPRS2008 in Beijing is being organised by J Chandler; contributions were encouraged. It was noted that T&F and Blackwells were very keen to be involved and that their focus would be on promoting the Society's journals. A successful UK bid for Commission V is hoped for since this would raise the profile of UK activities. Three successful ISPRS Working Group sessions had been held at RSPSoc2007.

Collaboration with EARSeL continued. The sad news of M Godefroy's death was reported in September 2006; on the Society's behalf, S Marsh sent a tribute via the EARSeL website. The first joint Geohazards workshop (involving EARSeL and GRSG) was held in Warsaw, Poland, in June 2006, and this had been very successful. A second session was held in Bolzano, Italy, in 2007 and a further session is planned for Istanbul in 2008.

In January 2007, the UKGEOForum lecture was given by D Williams, Director General of BNSC. UKGEOForum is considered a useful mechanism for raising multi-disciplinary issues. The production of a new UKGEOForum publicity flier, showing the collaborating organisations, was noted. Also noted was the formation of a mirror Forum, in the USA (USGEOForum); the UKGEOForum has become an international model.

A new bi-lateral relations initiative is underway, led by S Smith-Voysey, aimed at priority areas for collaboration with other organisations.

5.3 Annual Conference Series

It was noted that the Annual Conference series was secure for the coming few years. RSPSoc2006 was a reasonable success but was viewed as rather a missed opportunity; as a result of the fact that the relationship with Informa had, at that time, been only in its formative stages. It was noted that the Society made a surplus from RSPSoc2006 but that Informa had made a loss. Informa is no longer involved in the organisation of academic conferences.

It was noted that RSPSoc2008 will be held in Cornwall and the local organiser will be K Anderson. It was also noted that the Society has received an offer from Leicester University to host RSPSoc2009. S Marsh commended the excellent programme which was in place for the next few years.

S Marsh indicated that in terms of his third area of priority, i.e. membership, a positive trend in growth has been identified. Membership benefits were currently being reviewed, with the remaining anomalies being examined and resolved. The goal is for all members to receive equal value benefits for their subscription. This may necessitate another EGM, next year, to establish the mechanism to enable this.

5.4 The Accounts

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, R Taft, P Mason summarised the Society's income over the past year. It was noted that income from Publications was substantial but that there was almost no income from advertising. Subscription income was on a downward trend but there had been a slight increase in income from bank account interest. In general, there had been a small decline in meetings income. It was noted that the Society's administration contributed the highest expenditure but that this was a necessary cost. Expenditure on publications had decreased slightly and there had been a 'one-off' expenditure as a result of the website project. Council expenses had decreased slightly but overall there had been a slight rise in expenditure.

In summary, income, expenditure, surplus and net asset figure were down slightly.

Comments were then requested from the floor and M Steven queried why the trend in membership numbers was increasing whilst subscription income was down. S Marsh explained that this anomaly was due to the difference in subscription levels. For example, if a Corporate member did not renew, the financial impact was more significant than if a student member did not renew.

E Wickens noted that, with reference to the list of Corporate members in the Annual Review, about 16 former PSoc Corporate members did not appear on the list. S Marsh explained that either they had resigned or had not paid their subscription. It was also pointed out that Corporate resignations are chased by the Membership & Publicity Committee. This Committee was trying to address the issue of membership retention and encourage lapsed Corporate members to rejoin. S Marsh indicated that ESRI (UK) Ltd had resigned in the past few weeks and that an Officer would contact them to establish their reasons.

K McManus queried an anomaly in the accounts relating to Council expenses which would be relayed to the Hon. Treasurer to respond to. Action: R Taft

Another query related to the difficulty in 'keeping' Corporate members, and whether the problem was unique to the RSPSoc. S Marsh responded that it was also a problem for other Societies.

6. Results of Council Elections

P Mason reminded attendees of the make-up of Council; that it consisted of four Ex-Officio members (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. General Secretary), 12 elected members plus Co-optees and attending individuals. S Marsh will retire after this AGM when

P Aplin will become the new Chairman. A Koh and M Williams are re-elected to Council for a second term. Council regretted that T Wicks had earlier resigned and Council thanked him for his work, and noted his energetic approach to running the Membership and Publicity Committee, which would be missed. K Anderson and S Robson are elected, unopposed, to their first terms on Council. R Gaulton steps down as Student Representative; Council thanks her for organising a very successful student meeting in 2007. T Thomson (UCL) now takes over as Student Representative and A Hardy (Newcastle University) is welcomed as the incoming Shadow Student Representative.

The positive flow of members to Council was noted and members were encouraged to put themselves forward for election to Council in the future.

7. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

P Mason proposed that D Cooke be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner. P Newby seconded this and there were 2 abstentions. D Cooke was, therefore, re-appointed.

8. AOB

8.1 A Cracknell questioned whether it was necessary to approve the Accounts by a vote at the AGM. *A Cracknell proposed the Accounts for 2007-2008 subject to clarification of Council and Committee expenses. P Zukowskyj seconded. All were in favour. P Newby pointed out that the Accounts were not approved last year and S Marsh agreed to clarify this matter.*

8.2 As this was the last AGM under S Marsh's Chairmanship, he expressed thanks to a number of people for their support and help during his 3 year term:

- Council – its members and their individual work for the membership
- The Executive Committee who had been a pleasant team to work with
- The RSPSoc membership who were extremely supportive and this was very much appreciated
- The Executive Secretary, K Laughton, for her guidance and assistance

S Marsh very much enjoyed his time as Chairman, which had been an interesting experience; but felt it was time to pass the Chairmanship to P Aplin. At this point the Chain of Office was presented to P Aplin. S Marsh will remain Co-opted to Council for the next year, as Immediate Past Chairman, and is expected to continue to Chair the External Affairs Committee. S Marsh offered his thanks to members for attending the AGM and wished his successor good luck.

There being no further business the AGM closed at 6.41pm

Signed: Date:

Annex 1

THE REMOTE SENSING AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SOCIETY AGM 2007

Thursday 13th September 2007, 5.30 pm, Room A, The Armstrong Building, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

LIST OF ATTENDEES

C Alexander
A Alroichdi
K Anderson
P Aplin
A Aqduş
H Balzter
M Bartels
F Cawkwell
J Chandler
A Cracknell
T Dawson
B Delauré
J Drummond
E Edwards
T Elawed
J Eenedino Mendoza
J Finch
G Foody
R Gaulton
D Holland
A Holmes
S Jaschinski
F Khalid
A Koh

K Laughton
S Lavender
A MacArthur
K McManus
J McMorro
S Marsh
P Mason
J Mills
P Newby
I Newton
S Robson
T Sagawa
A Skellern
M Steven
K Tansey
T Thomson
R Vaughan
K White
E Wickens
T Wicks
A Wilson
P Zukowskyj