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MINUTES OF THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE REMOTE SENSING AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SOCIETY.

Wednesday 14th September 2011, 15:30 – 16:30 pm, University of Bournemouth, Room KG02 (Marconi Lecture Theatre), Kimmeridge House, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, BH12 5BB, UK.

The Chairman, S Lavender, opened the 2011 AGM at 15:40 and welcomed all members.

The list of Attendees is recorded in Annex 1, attached.

1. Apologies for Absence:

D Boyd, J Chandler, M Cooper, A Graham and P Mather.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of the 2010 Minutes

It was indicated by P Newby that, under Minute 6 “Council Membership 2009-10”, “Elected Members” there was a spelling error. A Kohn was therefore corrected to read A Koh. R Hill and A Ford had been present at the 2010 AGM; both names were added to the attendance list. There were no further amendments. S Lavender signed the Minutes.

4. Matters Arising

There was one action item relating to Minute 5 in the 2010 Minutes. Council had subsequently discussed covering the costs of a research student which had been raised at the 2010 AGM in connection with the Society’s surplus. Whilst this issue will be kept in mind, further explanation relating to proposed Society activities will be given under the Accounts and Education items. The Promotion Fund (restricted fund) had not been used but can be accessed in the future.

5. Annual Review and Accounts

5.1 Annual Review

S Lavender reported that the Annual Review had been drafted but members had not yet received this publication as the Accounts had only recently been produced. The Annual Review will be available and sent to all members as hard copy and will also be available as a pdf document soon after this AGM.

Review period highlights were noted as follows:

- RSPSoc 2010 in Cork, September 2010;
- The EH Thompson event held at UCL, London, September 2010;
- Annual Student Meeting, March 2011;
- Remote Sensing Letters - there had been much interest and demand for the publication of both short letters and long papers; and
- Four new RSPSoc Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

The following have taken place since March 2011:

- UK Space Conference, Warwick University, July 2011. S Lavender co-chaired the “Environment” session on the second day and
- UK Space Agency. Input had been provided to the UK Space Agency’s consultation for Earth Observation. Post 2012 no funding will be available. Therefore, a strong case needed to be made regarding future funding for EO activities. Individual organisations had been asked for facts and figures so that a business case could be presented. S Lavender provided membership figures for the RSPSoc. In conjunction with the ESA website, other evidence relating to the strength of UK activities benefitting from ESA funding was given. The UK Space Agency will consolidate feedback and present a business case to secure funding. It is hoped that if this exercise is successful, RSPSoc will benefit.

Going forward, S Lavender reported that the following was ongoing:

- K Keir Fund. It was noted that the Education & Training Committee has drafted a proposal for use of the K Keir fund which involves students giving talks on GIS in Schools. C Mewse, Chairman of the Society’s Education & Training Committee, will give a short talk following this AGM;
- Online payment facility. Members will soon have the option of paying their subscriptions online. An online payment facility is in the process of being investigated and set up. Gift Aid is also being considered and
- Annual Review – change of format. The format and content of the Annual Review will be considered and updated so that it can be showcased for publicity purposes as well as for reporting purposes.

To conclude this item, S Lavender asked for any comments to be raised at the Chairman’s Half hour, later on during this conference, or to be sent to her by email.

5.2 *Accounts 2010-2011*

The 2010-2011 Accounts were distributed as hard copy to the AGM.

S Lavender reported that R Taft is standing down as Honorary Treasurer. It was noted that the Honorary Treasurer’s role had become more demanding in recent years and that some accounting knowledge was needed. As a consequence, a replacement for this position had

been difficult to find. It had been decided to separate the “Accountancy” part of the role from that of Honorary Treasurer. Companies specialising in Charity Accounting had therefore been contacted. SmithEmmerson, Chartered Accountants and Tax Consultants (based in Nottingham) had since been employed. This was done in consultation with D Morten who was appointed Independent Examiner at last year’s AGM. D Morten agreed to work with SmithEmmerson in the preparation/examining of the Accounts. It was also noted that U Feinstein (Administrative Secretary, RSPSoc office) had taken on more of the day-to-day preparatory work that was previously done by the Honorary Treasurer. The cost to RSPSoc of employing an Accountant to prepare and examine the Accounts for the 2010-2011 period was £2,980 plus VAT.

A powerpoint presentation was then given. This included an Accounts summary of income with various categories and trends relating to: subscriptions, publications, donations (K Keir restricted fund 2011), the promotion fund (2010) and the Annual Conference 2010. Interest income had decreased in the 2010-2011 financial year. It was further noted that income peaked in 2011 because of the K Keir fund.

The membership profile was then considered. Membership numbers had increased slightly, in particular the New Professional category. S Lavender briefly explained.

Expenditure was then looked at. Administration expenditure had decreased slightly in 2011 although there had been a slight increase in Committee expenses. Society publications were a significant expenditure item.

In summary, the bank balance is healthy although there is still a need to increase income and attract new members. P Atkinson questioned whether some of the IJRS royalty income could possibly be used to help speed up publication of papers; the IJRS is a flagship journal. K Anderson pointed out that there is a one-year publication backlog relating to the Remote Sensing Letters publication. The Publications Committee was asked to consider these issues. H Balzter asked whether, without the K Keir fund, the Society was concerned about income and expenditure. S Lavender reassured members that this was not a concern as long as the Royalty income from both journals along with subscription income was sufficient to maintain funds.

6. Council Membership and Elections

P Mason reported to this item and outlined the composition of Council in the reporting year.

6.1 Council Membership

There are 12 elected members (Trustees) on Council from academia, industry and commercial backgrounds. The Trustees are elected by the members. There are 4 ex-officio Officers, S Lavender (Chairman), C Jordan (Vice Chairman), P Mason (Honorary General Secretary) and R Taft (Honorary Treasurer). Ex-officio members are elected by Council. The Student Representative and Shadow Student Representative are elected by the Student Community. There are also co-opted members of Council. Co-opted members can be Trustees if, for

example, they are co-opted on to Council to fulfil a specific task and need to be a budget holder. Those in Attendance are non-Trustees, for example, the Editor of The Photogrammetric Record.

Council changes were then outlined. The following members retired from Council. R Teeuw, D Holland and P Zukowskyj came to the end of their second term and so could not stand for re-election. A Graham stepped down from Council after the end of his first term and did not seek re-election. T Thomson is now an ex-officio Officer and R Armitage completed his term as a co-opted Trustee. R Parker retired as Student Representative.

Council changes from this AGM were then noted. P Newby retired as Editor of The Photogrammetric Record.

R Taft retired from the post of Honorary Treasurer. R Taft was Honorary Treasurer to the former Photogrammetric Society and was elected to the post in 2001 when the RSPSoc formed. R Taft has therefore been in post from 1990 until 2011. The AGM recorded a huge debt of gratitude to R Taft.

The AGM recorded its thanks and appreciation to all those mentioned above and also to K Laughton and U Feinstein at the RSPSoc Office.

6.2 Council Elections

P Mason reported to this item. It was noted that R Armitage, J Dash and M Jarman were elected to the RSPSoc Council for 3 years. The new Student Representative is Amy Nettley. The shadow Student Representative is Andrew Singleton.

T Thomson was elected, by the RSPSoc Council, as the new RSPSoc Honorary Treasurer and also becomes an ex-officio member of Council.

Three vacancies currently remain on Council and so co-options remains a way of obtaining new members outside the forum of an election. There are 8 Committees and only 9 elected Council members; P Mason expressed concern at the 3 vacancies and the resulting pressure on newly elected Council members to take on responsibilities before they were fully familiar with the running of the Society, and so encouraged members to join and become involved in Society activities at any time. Members were also asked to consider joining Council, in particular, representatives from industry. P Atkinson asked about the procedure to which P Mason responded.

7. Appointment of Accountant and Independent Examiner

S Lavender proposed that SmithEmmerson Chartered Accountants and Tax Consultants were appointed as Accountant and Independent Examiner for the 2011-2012 financial year. P Mason seconded this. All agreed with the exception of 2 Abstentions.

8. AOB

The following change in Council roles was noted. F Cawkwell is replacing P Zukowskyj as Chairman of the Membership & Publicity Committee. P Miller is replacing A Graham as Chairman of the Publications Committee and Z Li is replacing R Teeuw as Chairman of the Special Interest Groups.

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 4.28 pm.

Signed:

Date:

Annex 1. 2011 AGM Attendance List

K Anderson
O Anejdny
P Aplin
S Aqduş
P Atkinson
R Armitage
H Balzter
A Bradley
K Brown
F Cawkwell
J Dash
J Drummond
S Granshaw
G Groom
U Feinstein
W Frampton
R Gaulton
A Harris
E Haslam
R Hill
D Holland
M Jarman
D Kamthonkiat
S Kay
F Khalid
K Laughton
S Lavender
M Leidij
Z Li
P Liu
G Llewellyn
D Luscombe
P Mason
C Mewse
MD S Mondal
B Morakinyo
A Nettley
P Newby
L Reynolds
A Singleton
K Smith

M Smith
J Swinton
R Teeuw
T Thomson
F Visser
M Williams
R Wilson
S Yahaya