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## MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE REMOTE SENSING AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SOCIETY

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2010, 17:15, University College Cork, West Wing 5, Cork, Ireland.

The Chairman, Paul Aplin opened the 2010 AGM at 17:15. It was noted that this was P Aplin's last meeting as Chairman and that S Lavender would take over the role in September 2010.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Tina Thomson, Michael Cooper, Alastair Graham, Geoff Smith, Karen Anderson, Roger P Kirby, Kenneth Smilie and Robert Taft.
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**  
The Minutes of the last meeting were signed as an accurate record by P Aplin. This was seconded by P Newby. All were in favour.
- 3. Approval of the 2009 AGM Minutes**  
P Aplin asked for any comments. He proposed that the amended 2009 AGM Minutes be accepted. P Newby seconded this. All were in favour.
- 4. Matters arising**  
There were no matters arising.
- 5. Annual Review and Accounts**  
P Aplin gave a summary of the Annual Review and Accounts, referred to comments and reviewed progress of the past year and thoughts on the future of RSPSoc.

### *5.1 Annual Events*

Annual events had gone from strength to strength, the science got stronger and the year had been a success, both financially and socially. The May 2010 *Conversazione* and Annual Lecture, held at the Geological Society in London, the Annual Student Meeting and annual meeting of the Geological Remote Sensing Group (GRSG) also went well.

P Aplin commented that, especially in financially difficult times, successful annual events would be more advisable and more cost-effective than holding several short meetings.

The Annual Newsletter had improved and was well received. The new *Remote Sensing Letters* alongside the *Photogrammetric Record* and the *IJRS* were also doing well.

### *5.2 Special Interest Groups*

Some Special Interest Groups were inactive, others had been very active. P Aplin challenged their chairs to provide a positive response and announced that ArchSIG had a new chair.

The closure of inactive groups should be considered. Successful SIGs were contemporary and operated for a limited period of time, when interest was high, and should be closed once activity subsided.

### *5.3 Employment for Academics*

The pressure of time on academic life is high, and therefore posts carrying financial honoraria could be created. Once the website content had been updated, jobs and postgraduate positions could be advertised and thus the Society could invest in people's positions.

### *5.4 Engagements with other organisations*

Educational activities had improved due to an active E&T committee. Links with interested parties should be forged and publicity increased, through public lectures about interesting topics at annual meetings or subsequent dinners.

Collaboration with academia should be fostered, for example the Society should continue pushing collaboration with the NCEO.

P Aplin thanked an excellent Executive Committee, P Mason, S Lavender and R Taft, for its support, and said that the Council got stronger every year through its members and Committee Chairs. He also thanked K Laughton and U Feinstein for their support in the RSPSoc office.

*5.5 Accounts summary.* On behalf of R Taft, Hon. Treasurer, P Mason reported on the 2009-2010 Accounts which were published in the Annual Review (Statement of Financial Activities).

Income. The biggest increase in revenue was in publications. There was a very small increase in subscriptions and little change to cash held in bank accounts.

P Mason noted that overall the income looked healthy but this was largely due to royalties from publications.

Expenditure: Administration expenditure had increased considerably, because of new charges at the University of Nottingham. Equally, publication costs were up, probably due to the Newsletter. Council expenses had also increased. Special project expenditures had dropped to zero.

Current Situation: Compared to 2008-09 the Society's net value and profit had increased. The increase in the Net value was mainly due to £30,000 bequest from Kenneth Keir, which is to be spent for the benefit of the whole Society.

P Mason's Accounts summary was followed by a discussion about best use of the £30,000 and the use of the term 'profit' in relation to RSPSoc as a charity. P Mason explained that a 'profit' was needed for the health of the Society, and that it was required to maintain a balance equal to its 'turnover', because the Society had to grow and to be able to survive disaster or adverse financial circumstances. P Aplin added that the term 'surplus' should be used instead of profit, and that legal restrictions on the Society would always constrain how that money should be spent. It was suggested that the £30,000 could be spent on more than one project. P Aplin pointed out that there were stipulations for the way the money should be spent. He also mentioned that R Taft's promotional fund was still unspent. RSPSoc studentships were considered but as funding would be likely to exceed £16000 pa for a PhD, bursaries would be preferable to full studentships.

Action: Council to discuss and cover operational cost of research students

P Aplin pointed out that the spending of the £30,000 should have a lasting legacy. He raised the issue of the sustainability of RSPSoc's finances, as there had been a negligible increase in subscriptions and that the Society's financial health relied heavily on royalties. Although the Society benefited its members, educated the public at large and invested a lot in students, not enough students were coming through to full membership and the issue of increasing subscriptions was discussed.

**6. Council Membership 2009-10**

P Mason, Hon. Gen. Secretary, reported on this item. Council currently consists of:

Ex-Officio members: elected by Council each year, were P Aplin who had been re-elected as Chairman, S Lavender as Vice Chairman, R Taft as Hon. Treasurer and P Mason as Hon. General Secretary.

In attendance with no voting rights were the president, P Curran, R Brewin was student representative, R Parker was shadow student representative, P Newby was Photogrammetric Record Editor, G Foody the IJRS Editor, M Steven the office liaison officer (UoN) and K Laughten the Executive Secretary.

Elected members: 12 elected members attending for two terms of three years were K Anderson, D Holland, A Graham, C Jordan, F Khalid, A Kohn, C Mewse, S Robson, R Teeuw, T Thomson, M Williams and P Zukowskyj.

Co-opted members: attending for three years with voting rights were R Armitage, F Cawkwell (RSPSoc 2010 organiser), M Cutler and R Hill (RSPSoc 2011 organiser).

Changes to Council Membership for 2010-11

Ex-Officio members: P Aplin passed on the role as Chairman to S Lavender and assumed the role as past Chairman for 1 year. C Jordan succeeded S Lavender as Vice-Chairman.

Student Representative: R Parker succeeded R Brewin as student representative and A Nettley takes over from R Parker as shadow student representative.

Elected Members: K Anderson and S Robson completed their 1<sup>st</sup> term and were eligible for re-election. Two members, A Koh and M Williams, complete their 2<sup>nd</sup> terms. There are now 4 vacancies on Council and 4 nominations have been received for election, and there is therefore no need for a secret ballot.

The Nominees were K Anderson, a Lecturer in remote sensing at Tremough University of Exeter, RSPSoc conference organiser 2008 and a council member for the past three years,

Zhenghong Li, Lecturer at the University of Glasgow with a BSc degree in geodesy from Wuhan University, China and a PhD degree in GPS, geodesy and navigation at UCL. Furthermore he had

been involved in over 10 years of research in space geodesy & remote sensing and their geophysical and engineering applications including earthquakes, landslides and city subsidence,

Pauline Miller, a researcher in the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Newcastle University, a former student representative and member of RSPSoc since 2004 and best PhD Thesis Prize Winner 2008. She also had been on the organising committee for RSPSoc2007.

Fiona Cawkwell, a Lecturer in remote sensing, University College Cork and a Post-Doc on Canadian arctic environments, University of Alberta, a PhD on climate change effects on Greenland ice sheets, University of Bristol. She has an MSc in remote sensing at UCL and a BSc in geography, University of Edinburgh.

P Mason thanked F Cawkwell for fantastic conference organisation this year.

**7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Mr David Morten (Honorary Treasurer, BARSC) was reappointed as independent examiner. P Newby seconded this. All were in favour.

There being no further business, the 2010 AGM was closed.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Annex 1

**The REMOTE SENSING AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SOCIETY AGM/EGM2010**  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2010, 17:15, University College Cork, West Wing 5, Cork, Ireland.

**List of Attendees**

Abed, Fanar M  
Ali Aqdu, Syed  
Aplin, Paul  
Armitage, Richard  
Babb, Renee  
Cawkwell, Fiona  
Cracknell, Arthur  
Donoghue, Daniel  
Downey, Ian  
Drummond, Jane  
Feinstein, Uta  
Holderness, Tomas  
Holland, David  
Jackson, Jan  
Jordan, Colm  
Kay, Susan  
Khalid, Fakhar  
Kirchhoefer, Melanie  
Llewellyn, Gary  
MacArthur, Alastair  
Mason, Philippa  
McMorrow, Julia  
Mewse, Chris  
Miller, Pauline  
Mills, Jon  
Newby, Paul  
Parker, Rob  
Parton, Graham  
Smith, Mike  
Visser, Fleur  
Williams, Meredith  
Zhang, Li