

ERMS Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2016
at 2A Hearsall Avenue, Broomfield, Chelmsford CM1 7DD

- 1) **Present.** Ian Mercer (Chairman), Jeff Saward (Vice Chairman), John Lacy (Treasurer), Ros Mercer (Secretary), Roger Coleman (Membership secretary), David Turner (Field Trip organizer) Gerald Lucy, Doreen White.
- 2) **Apologies for absence.** Bob Williams. Unable to get to the meeting, but written report submitted.
- 3) **Minutes of the committee meeting held on 31st May 2016.** These were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 4) **Treasurers Report.** The treasurer distributed a written balance sheet which showed the accounts to be in a healthy position. The total in hand £4716 held between a Community Bank ac (£1420) and a savings ac (£3296). As we could not use HOPWA house for the August meeting and hired a room at the library instead, a reduction in the next payment of hall hire fees was made.

Income was up £500 from the beginning of the year due to the reduced cost of membership card printing and increased money from visitors at monthly meetings and field visits. The books were closed at the end of September for the accounts to be made up for the AGM and would be sent for auditing.

Barclays have further reduced interest on the savings account to almost zero, but as this was thought to be in line with other banks and as it was convenient to keep both accounts at the same bank, it was decided not to shop around

- 5) **Membership.** One new member had recently joined and as it is so close to the end of the year it was suggested that the membership should carry over to next year – this was agreed. There were two late renewals. Membership now stands at 66 with 8 new members this year. Meeting attendance was around 30 each month. One enquiry had been received which has not yet converted to a membership.
- 6) **AGM Arrangements / Changes to the constitution.** No changes to the constitution were proposed by the committee. The present members of the committee were willing to stand for a further year.

The AGM will follow the usual format with a Chairman's report and a financial report. Following the formal business, members will be invited to present photos of recent geological trips and to bring interesting specimens to talk about.

- 7) **Inventory of Property.** This has been updated and is attached to the minutes.
- 8) **Jim Greenwood Award.** It was suggested that this be awarded to Rowley Collier on the occasion of ERMS 50th anniversary since the club was started by him. DT agreed to have it engraved. IM would ask Alistair Rickards, last year's recipient, to bring it to the next meeting. DT
IM
- 9) **December meeting social arrangements.** Andrew Fellows has been booked to give a "seasonal-style" talk on Gems. He has now moved from Gem-A to Birmingham so IM/RS will check on his continued availability. GL would organize a raffle and RC/DW would provide mince pies and suitable beverage. IM
GL
RC/
DW

- 10) ERMS Show.** Date 18th February confirmed. RM would work on the poster asap to get it into Down to Earth & GA magazines and printed by GA Festival. RM
- JS had extracted a list of sellers from the material left by Sarah and put it onto a spread sheet which would be made available via Google. He would liaise with GL ref missing contact information and then send an email to sellers with details of the change in arrangements. JS
- GL had produced an official invitation letter and a list of booking conditions based on his selling experience at other shows. All agreed these documents with slight adjustment. RM would send JS an electronic version of the table plan for his use. RM
- It was agreed to pay an extra £15 for another hour at the hall to ease time constraints at the end – but not to announce this to the sellers. JL would also pay the balance of the hall charge with a carry-over deposit which is due 3 months before the event. The decision about hiring the extra room would await responses from the invitation email. JL
- RW said he would like some space for a display and this could be accommodated in the vestibule next to the Society's Thames in Essex display. RW
- 11) ERMS Display at forthcoming events.** IM & RM are working on the next ERMS display entitled "Dig the Thames in Essex" for use at the GA Festival, GA Worthing Conference, EFC December Social, ERMS Show etc. Specimens from the EFC collection may be needed, but IM probably has examples of most clast types. IM/
RM
- 12) Souvenir Brick for 50th Year.** IM had ordered 50 commemorative bricks from Bulmer Brickworks at a cost of £354. He has applied for a grant for £250 from Havering Arts Council (HAC), but has yet to receive a response. It was decided to number the bricks and present them in a box with a suitable label and to charge members £5 on a first come, first served basis. GL would make the label and source the box when IM confirmed the exact size. IM
GL
- 13) Speakers for 2017.** The list in the previous minutes was reviewed. There would be a largely Essex theme, but Barry Hunt who was unable to talk in 2016 would be asked next year. Ivor Thurgood had indicated that he was getting a new talk together. GL would try to find the contact information for Anne Brooks to talk about the Essex Earthquake. Essex Fossils would be covered by JS, GL & RW. Essex Churches was another topic to pursue. RM
GL
- 14) Field Trip Programme for 2017.** DT would investigate suggestions on the list in the previous minutes. GL had been approached to lead a trip to Walton-on-the-Naze by the GA which would be arranged as a combined trip with ERMS. JS suggested that he could lead a GA trip to the London Clay of the Essex Coast. Bull's Lodge and the new quarry near Dunmow would be included in the ERMS programme. DT
GL
JS
- 15) ERMS Website.** Simplification of the website to make it more compatible with phone use is being considered as this was the future trend. RW suggested more write-ups of field visits be put onto the site, but this would require more editing than anyone had time to do for not a lot of perceived benefit. A Facebook page would be investigated. IM
- 16) Publicity.** HAC published information quarterly. Talks and field visits were included in listings in the GA magazine and Down to Earth when available. The Show poster would be sent to these publications. RM
- 17) Havering Arts Council Grant.** Information re the grant for funding towards the commemorative brick is still awaited. IM to chase. IM
- 18) 50th Year Article.** IM will write an article and submit it to DtE and the GA for publication. IM

RW had written an article about Early Man that had been accepted for publication by Deposits Magazine. This made mention of ERMS.

19) Library. No new books had been acquired. The location of the library cupboard at HOPWA House was a problem at the last meeting as it was hidden behind a curtain.

20) GeoEssex & EWT Liaison. The need for a meeting of GeoEssex was mentioned as it was an important quasi official group that had more influence than ERMS in some respects.

Relations with EWT were good following the display of rocks and fossils at the Naze centre and the leading of geology walks for their AGM. Continued involvement with future geological displays at the Naze Centre needs to be actively sought.

GL

21) Review of Recent Activities to promote Essex Geology. Chelmsford Museum Family day well supported by ERMS members and well attended by families. EWT AGM see above. EFC Family Day supported by activities. Hadleigh Section reinstatement has made progress with the digging in a new area. GL to contact manager to further its development with access and sign boards. The purpose of the flattened area adjacent and a possible London Clay exposure would be followed up. It was not known whether the geological feature at Chafford Gorges had been cleared using herbicide. Enquiries would be made in writing.

GL

IM

22) Enquiries. IM had received an enquiry ref Felsted market cross; GL had received the same and referred it to professional stone workers such as Berry Hunt and BGS. IM & RM would visit on 11th Oct.

IM had received several invitations to talk on Essex Geology and related subjects.

23) AOB. It was mentioned that the AGS Bazaar had been renamed and relocated. ERMS members have been given details.

Doreen had bought a lovely large hologram picture of a mammoth for possible use in club displays. IM had also got one probably from the same place.

24) Date of next meeting. Tuesday 17th January, 11am at 2a Hearsall Ave, Broomfield

Meeting closed at 1.30pm

Committee: Ian Mercer, Jeff Seward, Ros Mercer, John Lacy, David Turner, Bob Williams, Gerald Lucy, Roger Coleman, Doreen White.