

ERMS Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2017
at 2A Hearsall Avenue, Broomfield, Chelmsford CM1 7DD at 11.30am

- 1. Present:** Ian Mercer (Chairman), Jeff Saward (Vice Chairman), John Lacy (Treasurer), Ros Mercer (Secretary), Roger Coleman (Membership Secretary), David Turner (Field Visits Secretary), Doreen White, Gerald Lucy.
Invitees. Rowley Collier - co-opted to represent ERMS North with all in favour.
Brian Clough, Andrew Collier and Jasmine Dooley - not present.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Bob Williams.
- 3. Minutes of the committee meeting held on 17th January 2017:** agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Minutes of the special committee meeting held on 6th April 2017: agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Balance sheet circulated. JL pointed out that the 2017 Show had produced £1221.53 profit, which is more than brought in by subscriptions. Pebble poster sales were £1569.24. Deficit from memorial brick sales are £67.37 but the remaining bricks will be on sale through the rest of 2017 – GL and JL to verify the amount from sales so far. ERMS North finances are breaking even so far. Insurance renewal is due 31st July. Advance payments had been made for both venues. GL
JL
- 5. Membership Report:** After the March meeting RC wrote to all non-renewed members and all but two renewed, a pleasing surprise response. With the opening of ERMS North there are 21 new members so far, making a current total of 87, including two extra GA members.

RC has investigated online membership and explained that to keep things simple and risk free it is better to retain the current set up for new memberships but to make renewals possible online. The BACS system could be used, or better still PayPal with its backup system if this can be set up on our website. IM to investigate the cost and suitability of the enhanced Weebly website platform for PayPal renewals (and for publications) and discuss as needed with RC. IM
RC
- 6. ERMS Show:** the final figure of over £1200 surplus is pleasing, following JS writing again for final payments of tables. Altogether a very successful show. Arrangements for 2018: Date is Saturday 17th February. The venue is booked. It was decided that the option of the third hall would not be taken up for 2018, due to lack of disabled access, reaction of certain stallholders, need to keep the set up as simple as possible, lack of power-points, etc. Instead, a very tight deadline would be put on dealers' payments and extra tables for any dealer would now be less likely. JS to inform the hall chairman; also to ask re the 'juke box' in the small hall, as this took up a table space this year. The Show Guide will be updated as required. The ERMS Essex Walls display can be in the foyer. JS
- RM and IM to generate the Show poster very soon, for GL to distribute early. GL to find suitable photo for poster. Thanks were again recorded to JS for putting the Show onto a sure footing. RM
IM
GL
- 7. ERMS Brick:** GL will transfer some of the 15 remaining bricks to IM for sale at Stanway, Bulmer, GA Festival, etc. Any not sold at the end of this year will be bought by IM to make a wall. GL to transfer two bricks to R Dodson and R Markham. Lisa IM
GL

Nunn had put her holding a brick image on Facebook under '50 Shades of Clay'.

- 8. ERMS Hornchurch meetings:** 2018 programme ideas were given: Sanjeev Gupta (opening of Dover Straights), Marcus McCallum (gems), Dr Bob Kennedy (trilobites). IM to phone HOPWA and verify: tables to be booked each week; smaller chairs – situation to be clarified; use of sound system. Any committee member please ensure all except rear lights are turned off during slide shows to improve screen visibility. IM
- 9. ERMS North programme:** Rowley Collier (RCr), who instigated our ERMS North expansion, was co-opted onto the committee to act as Deputy-MC for IM for Stanway meetings and RCr ran last month's meeting. He reported that some newcomers were holding back on membership in order to pay the lower half-year subs. These people could be encouraged to lend fuller support, perhaps. There is some confusion re the membership and visitors' money left with the signing-in book, IM to ask A. Mercer and verify with JL. IM
- 'Essex Rocks' family day event at Stanway, Saturday 1st July: IM verified that this was not an event for sales but for free displays aimed at adults and children, as organised previously at several venues. Several helpers would be needed and IM will contact people to help with a dozen or more tables of specimens and demonstrations. RCr will produce a 'gemmology table', IM and RM will organise the Essex Walls display plus various other demonstrations. It was agreed that only ERMS members would be allowed a sales table, with a donation of £20 to ERMS funds, and refreshments would be organised by members with proceeds also to ERMS funds, offsetting the hall hire charge of £68. RCr would get information and poster to Holmwood School and contact local papers. The poster and banner could be put outside the hall to attract passers by. RM to enlist people for cakes and refreshments and action advertising. IM
RCr
IM
RM
RCr
RM
- 10. Field visits:** DT to look at further venues such as those in the N.Buckingham booklet e.g. Kensworth Beds; also Woburn Sands with the GeoEast Bedfordshire Geology Group for possible joint visit. Marks Tey and Cudmore Grove could also be investigated. IM would approach Brian Clough for help with venue investigation. Committee members to please send further venue ideas to DT. DT
IM
- 11. Essex Walls Project:** IM has devised a standard reporting format and will circulate this to committee members immediately for comment, advice and initial testing. Essex Walls would be the basis of the next ERMS display for 2017/18. IM also to put photo charts onto the ERMS website and involve other societies such as U3A, EFC. IM
- 12. Other ERMS displays, meetings, etc.:** Essex Wildlife Trust – GL & M. Sandison met graphic designer at EWT to check interpretation for Naze Centre. Working with EWT remains difficult.
- EFC Natural History Day – P. Allen contacted Rockwatch. Poster is available – GL to get copies for distribution. GL
- GA Local Socs meeting Fri 3rd Nov at Burlington Ho. 1pm – RC and DW volunteered to attend for ERMS. RM to inform GA. GA Fest of Geol Sat 4th Nov. IM & RM to prepare Essex Walls Display and hand over to GL in late September for transporting on 4th Nov, to be set-up by JS on the day. RC
DW
RM
I&RM
GL
JS

13. GeoEssex: Hadleigh section has been dug. IM & RM have almost finished making signboard content to hand to A.W., Hadleigh Ranger, who will also organise a gateway to the approach path on site. IM, RM to finalise board and prepare a trail guide. GL had given a talk to OUGS on this section and they showed interest in a field visit. I&RM

14. ERMS website: IM had kept the site up to date. Now we have a Facebook presence but IM needs to find help from a Young Person to maintain this. IM

15. Library: needs promotion. IM suggested opening some books out for inspection on the Play Table. GL to try this at next meeting. GL

16. Enquiries and Communications: IM had several via the website, including protracted investigation of garnet crystals in the Thames foreshore. JS investigated a lump of jade that was in fact solidified pre-war paint. Harrow and Hillingdon GS had sent IM their congratulations on our 50th Anniversary. JS had been contacted by AGS ref ideas for their new venue and organisation of the N London AGS Show. GL emphasised the importance of having our show poster at other shows nine months ahead of time (see item 6).

17. Publications: IM had obtained the ISBN numbers for the Pebble poster and the new edition of Essex Rock and now has access to the Nielsen activation website for ISBN management. Other people should be brought in to share the activation page. RM has printed bar code labels for the poster so that these can be distributed more widely, e.g. by bookshops. IM

18. Any Other Business: JS reported the sad news that past member Rick Johnson has suffered a very serious stroke recently. He will organise a card for people to sign at the next meeting.

GL reported that the GA is keen for Bill George to prepare a GA Guide for N. Essex and S. Suffolk. A Naze Guide is also needed. IM reported that Bill said he is keen to get started.

IM will attend the next HAC AGM this month. He noted that the HAC has now lost most of its Council funding and will thus be in crisis after next year. Our links are no longer strong, however, but IM will report back.

19. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 7th November.

The meeting finished at 1.30pm

(signed)

Committee: Ian Mercer, Jeff Seward, Ros Mercer, John Lacy, David Turner, Bob Williams, Roger Coleman, Doreen White, Gerald Lucy, Rowley Collier (Co-opted); Andrew Collier, Brian Clough, Jasmine Dooley (invited).