

ERMS Committee

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

1. **Present:** Ian Mercer (Chairman), Jeff Seward (Vice Chairman), John Lacy (Treasurer), Ros Mercer (Secretary), David Turner (Field Visits Secretary), Rowley Collier, Gerald Lucy
2. **Apologies for absence:** Bob Williams, Roger Coleman (Membership Secretary), Doreen White.
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 6th June 2017** –These were agreed as a true and correct record and duly signed by the chairman.

4. **Treasurers Report:** The treasurer distributed copies of the final year accounts. The books are still with the examiner, but the accounts should be signed off by the AGM. The presentation format may be changed. Attention was drawn to the increase in total assets. This was partly due to Pebble poster sales and these monies were ring-fenced for future publications such as trail guides and the new edition of Essex Rock. Notwithstanding this, there is still an increase due to subs from the newly formed Stanway Group, donations from talks and an increase in profit from the annual show. It was emphasised that the income from the show was more than the income from membership subs, thus indicating its importance to the viability of the society.

5. **Membership Report:** In the absence of the membership secretary, RM reported that there were 111 members as at 22 Sept 2017. RC handed over 2 more forms and monies from the last Stanway meeting. Many people at Stanway meetings had taken advantage of the reduced fee after July as it is less than coming to 2 meetings as a visitor. It is hoped that they re-join next year.

It was suggested that the half year subscription rule be *re-considered* at the next committee meeting.

6. **AGM Arrangements:** New committee members would be encouraged to stand at the AGM. Including at least one from Stanway.

Helpers were required to do various small tasks at meetings like setting out chairs, the projector and meeting and greeting to free up the chairman and secretary.

The AGM agenda had been sent to members with a plea for help.

7. **Inventory of Property**” The inventory was reviewed and it was agreed that the old slide projector and stand and the logo light box could be disposed of. At some stage the archives would need to be consolidated. RM would ask Bob Blackburn if he still held past account information. RM

8. **Jim Greenwood Award:** No nominations for this year were forthcoming, so no award would be made at the AGM. Award storage *to be discussed*.

9. **December Meeting Social Arrangements:** RM would ask RC & DW if they could do something at the Hornchurch meeting. RM would make mince pies for Stanway RM
10. **ERMS Show:** JS reported that invitations had been sent out and 2/3 tables are sold. Payment by cheque and bank transfer had been received by JL. The deadline is 1st Dec after which JS will review the situation and refer to the waiting list. This year it would be in 2 halls only/ JS would contact the hall ref invoicing direct to JL and the moving of the jukebox which was in the way last year. JS would update the Show Guide. JS
- Posters had been printed and distributed widely at various venues.
- The committee would review charges for the 2019 Show. To assist discussion, GL would provide information on charges at other shows. GL
11. **ERMS Display:** The Essex Walls display had been exhibited at the GA Festival and would be used at the GeoEast conference (18th Nov), the EFC Social (2nd Dec), ERMS Show and at Epping Forest Museum (10th March). IM
- Suggestions for next year's display include Geology with Worms.
12. **Speakers and Events:** RM is working on a programme for next year. RM
- More suggestions for speakers were sought. DT would supply contact info for Bob Kennedy on Trilobites. DT
13. **Field Visits:** Various suggestions were made including Bulls Lodge and Highwood quarries and CED at West Thurrock following contact made at the Stone Show. JS would look into a London Clay site. DT suggested a Church Walls visit for April. At the GA festival liaison with other groups was suggested, particularly East Herts Club and GL has been asked to run a Walton trip for Herts GS & Rockwatch and would include ERMS and EFC. DT
14. **Essex Walls Survey:** All information was now on the ERMS website and was being promoted by the ERMS Display. IM's presentation is included to aid identification. All are encouraged to participate.
15. **Pebble Poster sales:** Sales continue at the GA Festival and interest from the BGS bookshop at the NHM and other museums and outlets would be pursued. Agreement from EWT to stock it at their centres would be followed up and also bookshops now that it has an ISBN. An order form would be included on the website. RM
IM
16. **Naze Forum 2018:** The last one was run as an ERMS event, but IM feels it would be better under the GeoEssex banner. This was agreed. Plans for short talks and discussion between interested parties at the Naze are well in hand and initial invitations had been sent out. The date is 11th January. JS is unlikely to be available. GL will be able to give a short presentation on the geology. IM
17. **ERMS Website & Facebook Page:** The website has been updated to end Sept with Essex Walls Survey info. The Pebble Poster order form would be added. IM

- Becky & Lisa reported that the Facebook page is receiving an increasing number of likes and shares which peaked at the time of the Show as IM had paid for specific targeting. It was agreed that this should be repeated at a cost of £30. IM
18. **Publicity Leaflet:** Stocks of the dl leaflet have almost run out so it was agreed that more would be printed. RM undertook to review the contents to avoid information getting out of date and circulate a revised version. They would be printed in time for the Show. RM
19. **Havering Arts Council:** IM attended their AGM. He reported that their grant from Havering Council had been severely cut and their future was in jeopardy. They have a new improved website.
20. **GeoEssex & EWT Liaison: GeoEssex:** Members of ERMS are on the Steering Group which has been revived and meets 4 times a year at County Hall, Chelmsford. It is the official geoconservation body that recognises non-statutory geological sites and registers them with planning authorities. JS expressed an interest in being involved.
EWT: IM & RM together with Mike Sandison – chairman of GeoEssex - recently met the EWT CEO Andrew Impey to discuss selling the Pebble Poster at EWT Centres and promoting geology through information displays at EWT Visitor Centres. Progress was made regarding the Pebble Poster sales which will be pursued by IM & RM. The relevance of geology to biodiversity was outlined to await resourcing at EWT Centres.
21. **Review of Recent Activities: Thorndon:** RM & IM have been liaising with Friends of Thorndon re geological input to their Sensory Garden project. Sources of gravel for the project as an alternative to crushed concrete have been given to them.
Hadleigh: Access to the new section is at the top of their to-do list. JS will check progress with the warden, Andrew Woodhouse. The need for a trail leaflet and “geoposts” to aid navigation was identified. JS also attended their networking meeting and is now on the mailing list. JS
Stanway ERMS Essex Rocks Family Day: all agreed that this was a great success and thanks were conveyed to RC’s daughter Helen for the publicity. There were probably too many activities for the people available to help. It was agreed to repeat the event on Sat 30th June RM to check the hall is available and book it. RM
Chafford Gorges: the effect of herbicide treatment to reduce buddleia growth would continue to be monitored.
22. **Enquiries and Communication:** RM had an enquiry about collecting radioactive rocks which she will pass to GL for reply. RM
GL
IM had information from Stanway member John Rattford regarding cliff preservation at Holland-on-Sea. He forwarded contact information for GeoEssex, David Bridgland. JS is also interested from the London Clay perspective.
IM & RM had met a collector who thought he had found tektites on Danbury Hill. They visited one of the sites, which had yielded dreikanter. The site could be added as a LoGS. GL would like to be involved in a return visit.

IM received reports of ?ironworking clinker at Fingringhoe and Mersey. The enquirer would bring samples to the Nov meeting at Stanway.

23. AOB:

GL had been approached by Stuart Baldwin re donating books to ERMS as he is moving. GL will collect a batch and take them to the next Hornchurch meeting for members to take. Remaining books would be offered to John Cooper when GL sees him at the Sussex Show.

At the GA Affiliated Societies meeting, attended for ERMS by RC & DW, mention was made of setting up an Earth Science Awareness week, backed by local activities. IM had responded to the suggested dates in May / June 2018. RC sent some notes. Thanks were recorded to RC & DW for attending the meeting.

IM & RM noted that they have become U3A national advisors for Geology.

24. Date of Next Meeting:

Set for **Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 11am (not 11.30)** to discuss final plans for the show.

The meeting finished at 2.10pm

(Signed)

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