



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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MINUTES FEBRUARY 2017

1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

PRESENT: Professor John Zarnecki, Professor Ian Crawford, Dr Nigel Berman, Professor Yvonne Elsworth, Professor Don Kurtz, Professor Hiranya Peiris, Professor Christine Peirce, Professor Lyndsay Fletcher, Professor Martin Bureau, Miss Jane MacArthur, Dr Stacey Habergham, Professor Mike Bode, Professor Giovanna Tinetti, Professor Brad Gibson, Dr Catriona Jackman, Dr Sheila Peacock, Professor Sara Russell.

- Dr Mandy Bailey was present for agenda items 1, 2, 5.1 and 5.10 only (the latter two were taken out of order) as she was attending Astrofest.
- Professor Mike Watson was present for agenda items 1 to 5.1 & 5.10 only as he was involved with the management of the Astronomy Specialist meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Pamela Mortimer (Executive Director) and Dr Robert Massey (Deputy Executive Director)

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Dr Paul Daniels

2. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of 9th December 2016 were approved. Council were updated on the following matters arising that were not covered in the agenda:

The Treasurer advised that he had obtained informal positive feedback on the performance of OUP but had not yet had sight of comments from the editorial teams; in the absence of receiving adverse comments from the editorial teams he recommended that the Society renew the contract with OUP for a further period year and noted that good practice indicates that the contract should be put to tender within 10 years. Council agreed to the continuance of the contract.

ACTION: Treasurer to agree a contract extension with OUP

The Executive Director advised that OUP had been informed of the decision of Council in regards to Institutional Affiliations.

3. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

The President advised that the Astronomy Forum, held on the 8th February had gone well, there had been a good turn out and they had been joined by the new Chief Executive of STFC, Dr Brian Bowsher. He reinforced the strong message that there is

a great deal of uncertainty in regards to the future financial support for science. He had noted that ‘7 years of flat cash + removal of EU funding = trouble for some’. Council noted that the Governments recently released Industrial Strategy is important and as the focus in the strategy is applied science it is vital to promote the benefits of blue skies research. Those present at the Astronomy Forum had been invited to write to their MPs, this invitation was extended to Council members. It was noted that unfortunately no sitting MPs had a PhD in Science.

The Courtyard Societies are collectively engaged with interested members of the House of Lords in regard to ongoing matters over occupancy at Burlington House. The President had contacted Lord Ian Taylor and hoped to meet with him in the near future and also hoped to contact Lord David Willets to discuss this matter and garner support.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: A meeting with Lord Taylor has been arranged for 9th March 2017]

The President advised that he had been invited by the SKA team to visit Jodrell Bank and he intends to accept that invitation and visit soon.

The President of the Royal Academy Christopher Le Brun is keen to meet with the President and Executive Director to discuss accommodation matters and possible shared activities.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: A meeting with Christopher Le Brun has been arranged for the 20th March 2017.]

4. TREASURER’S BUSINESS

The Treasurer introduced his report.

Salaries

The Treasurer, Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director withdrew from the meeting as Council considered the comments and recommendation on staff salaries and remuneration levels for the journal editors and the honorarium for the Treasurer position.

It was noted that the recommended increase was based upon a simple across the board inflationary increase referenced to the RPI data published annually (the December 2015 to December 2016 increase was 2.5 per cent).

Council approved a 2.5 per cent increase for all staff/posts and that the resulting numbers should be rounded up to the next £50 p.a.

Council asked the Treasurer to confirm what the total cost of this increase would be.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: The total increase caused by the 2.5% uplift was £26,372 (staff salary increase (including NI and pensions) £21,770, editor increase £4,427 and Treasurer honorarium increase £175)]

Restricted Funds

The Treasurer explained the option of using a total returns treatment on endowed funds. The Charities Commission had advised that a resolution of the Trustees (Council) is required to approve this change of accounting procedure. He noted that

some of the existing endowment funds were not producing enough income to facilitate the activities the endowment had been set up to deliver.

Following considerable discussion on the benefits (or otherwise) of this approach Council agreed (via a vote - there were two abstentions and the rest of Council were in favour) that any endowed funds, present and future, may be treated on a total return basis and delegated to the Treasurer, from time to time, to decide which funds should be so treated and to act as appropriate.

E-payments

Council noted that the Society had changed the web based payment system WorldPay, as it was thought that this would reduce PCI compliance issues, however problems remain as the Society does not conform with the security aspects of PCI compliance in respect of a virtual terminal. He recommended involving the IT Committee to provide technical advice, in particular to ascertain whether UCL (the broadband provider) can provide the necessary assurances or advise as to whether the Society needs to switch provider again.

[**POST COUNCIL NOTE:** The IT and Information Manager has discussed this matter with his counterpart at the Royal Academy, who depend on commercial sales for much of their revenue. They do not use a ‘Virtual Terminal’, the source of much of the difficulty with compliance. A similar option is being considered, as removing it would only inconvenience the small number of Fellows & Friends, who pay for their membership (or back pay membership fees) by debit/credit card over the phone, or purchase merchandise in a similar way.]

Statement of Bank Balances at 31st January 2017

Council noted the following bank balances:

1. HSBC BANK

Account Name	Account Number	Balance £
Deposit/Money Manager Account	21664522	3,532,871
Restricted Funds Account	21664530	16,525
Pension Fund Account	51665456	23,138
Total		3,572,534

2. NATWEST

Account Name	Account Number	Balance £
Current Account	60671688	55,666
Total		55,666

Council noted the Statement of Investment Holdings at 31st December 2016, (below)

1. BNY MELLON/NEWTON INVESTMENTS

Account Name	Price (1 = par)	Balance £
Newton Growth and Income Funds for Charities (RAS)	1.2002	7,032,364
Newton Growth and Income Funds for Charities (Paneth)	1.2002	354,750
Total		7,387,114

Terms for RAS Research Fellowships

The Treasurer updated Council on his deliberations on the terms for ongoing and new RAS Research Fellowships. He reminded Council that he had received legal advice, which had directed that a number of changes to the contract were necessary to align with current HR legislation (for example in relation to maternity breaks) and that the Society should also clarify contractual arrangements on a number of matters, such as holiday entitlement, extensions etc. The selection panel had recently met and informally offered Fellowships to two individuals; formal contracts would need to be offered in the near future.

Dr Stacey Habergham, Chair of the Diversity Committee, sought reassurances that the Fellowships could be awarded on a part-time basis. The Treasurer advised that this would introduce financial accounting concerns.

It was agreed that transparency in the terms of the Fellowship was important and should be included in the advertising material and calling notice.

Council agreed that appointment letters should be sent to the two individuals successful at interview in advance of Council considering a policy paper at a later date.

ACTION: Treasurer

Dr Stacey Habergham advised that CDAG could provide a draft policy.

[**POST COUNCIL NOTE:** discussion by email on this matter has been ongoing between Dr Stacey Habergham, Dr Cairiona Jackman and the Treasurer since the February Council meeting.]

The following summary of policy that has been agreed previously by Council or is required by law is set out below:

- No age limit should be cited for the Norman Lockyer Fellowship; rather the terms should be similar to the standard RAS Research Fellowships (Legal point.)
- Fellows will not be allowed to move between organisations except under exceptional circumstances (Council decision December 2016.)
- The restriction of only one RAS Research Fellowship to be held in the same university at any one time remains, however, in order to accommodate for the occasion where the incumbent of a RAS Research Fellowship takes a career or other such break (thereby stopping the host university from applying for another Fellowship until their time in post is over) a time limit of 3 years is set. (Council decision December 2016.)
- Host institutions can include universities and other not for profit research active institutions. (Council Decision December 2016.)

The policy paper should deliberate on the following points:

- Arrangements for career breaks.
- Arrangements for part-time working. Should a time limit be set for the Fellowship to conclude or should the post be funded for 36 months, regardless of any breaks in service?]

5. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

5.1 RAS 200: Sky and Earth

This item was taken out of order, after agenda item 2.

Dr Mandy Bailey updated Council on progress with the RAS 200: Sky and Earth Programme. The grants scrutiny panel for tranche 2 of the programme had met on the 8th February and down selected from 60 submissions to a short list of 16 proposals. A very good range of proposals had been received and the selection was as previously based on supporting proposals that cannot obtain funding from traditional sources. The next grants panel is on the 26th April and 4 or 5 projects will be selected as winners.

Agenda item 5.10, Minutes of the RAS 200: Sky and Earth steering group, was taken out of order and followed this item. Council did not have any comments on the minutes.

Council thanked Dr Mandy Bailey for her update.

5.2 Update on EAS meeting

Professor Mike Bode updated Council on the EAS meeting held in late January that he had attended on behalf of the Society.

He reminded Council that they had agreed in principal to underwrite the costs to provide an EC policy officer for the European Astronomical Societies, unfortunately the two individuals identified to take up the post had not been able to for personal reasons. The EAS plan to arrange a meeting to discuss the arrangements for this post, including defining the role and agreeing the financial arrangements, the President would be approached to attend this meeting.

Clarity on the proposed financial arrangements had never been received; the EAS suggested that the Society could become an Organizational Member of the EAS; Dr Serena Viti, the secretary of the EAS had promised to send details on previous discussions held on this.

Council also noted the following:

- Professor Roger Davies will take over the Presidency of the EAS at their next meeting
- The next European Forum on Astronomy will be held in Prague at EWASS
- The EU forum Astronet now plans to repeat the decadal survey ‘A Strategic Plan for European Astronomy’
- Constrained budgets in the European Space Agency have led to some planetary science missions being delayed.
- The IAU – OAD plan to establish a European Office in Leiden.

Council thanked Professor Mike Bode for attending.

5.3 Updates on issues considered out of Committee December to February

a) Expulsion of a Fellow

The Executive Director updated Council on the proceedings to expel a Fellow in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code of Conduct. Professor Allington

Smith had been contacted, advised on the expulsion and that he had 28 days to the decision. The appeal period would end on the 17th February 2016.

Council briefly discussed the behavior of a Fellow that could be considered as inappropriate and against the Code of Conduct. The President advised that as a formal allegation had not been raised, the matter was not discussed further.

b) IAU proposal on junior membership

The Executive Director thanked Council on their comments on the IAU proposal to establish a new category of junior members that had been passed to the IAU. Council will be advised on the outcome of the discussion at the March meeting.

The Executive Director had requested detail from the IAU on how National Members are allocated to categories as the significant annual fee is determined by the category; the IAU had been unable to provide an explanation.

By coincidence, the Royal Society, who pay 50% of the annual fee, had also requested detail on how the fee is calculated and the benefits obtained through membership. Professor Don Kurtz and Professor Lyndsay Fletcher had provided supporting narrative to the latter; the President said he would provide further comments.

c) STFC strategy

Council noted that the Society had provided feedback to the STFC on their Corporate Strategy.

5.4 RAS Council Elections 2016

a) Recommendation for Correspondence

The Executive Director introduced her paper that made recommendations on how to manage ballot communication in 2017.

Council agreed that:

- Ballot communication will be made by email to the Fellows who have stated that they would like to receive ballot communication electronically.
- Hard copy ballot communication will be sent to all other Fellows who have not expressed a preference for email correspondence.
- Ballot correspondence will be despatched at the start of April.
- Electronic reminders to vote will be issued to all Fellows that we hold an email address and by social media and a 'remember to vote' announcement made at the April Ordinary meeting.

Council noted that the membership Officer would continue to contact Fellows who had not expressed a preference for ballot communication to ask them to confirm their ballot communication preference until immediately prior to the date on which the ballot correspondence is dispatched.

The President advised that he had been approached by a Fellow concerned to ensure that processes are changed to try to ensure that a higher number of votes are cast in the 2017/18 election. It was agreed that an explanation on the data management and communication preference exercise, the results and the process for the forthcoming election would be included in the covering letter to the Fellowship, also that the

Fellowship would be advised how to change their preference and that the Society's ambition remains to predominately use electronic correspondence by the bicentenary in 2020.

b) Ballot list

Council approved the ballot list that had been tabled.

5.5 Scrutiny of the Ballot

The Executive Director reminded Council that in December 2016 they agreed that the Society should invite Fellows who had previously served as honorary auditors to serve on the Scrutiny panel.

Two previous honorary auditors had been approached; Professor Paul Crowther and Dr David Waltham. Both were supportive of efforts to make the scrutiny of the ballot process transparent. Unfortunately Dr Paul Crowther cannot attend on the dates in May 2017 but could be approached on another year. Dr David Waltham kindly agreed to serve in 2017 if required.

Council agreed that the following Fellows should be formally approached to serve as members of the scrutiny panel for 2017:

- Mr Marcus Hope (previously served twice, 2015/2016)
- Dr Candice Mansell, (served in 2016)
- Dr David Waltham.

Council noted that if the above are unable to serve or other panel members are required then Professor Ian Ridpath (served many times over the years, including last year) will be approached.

ACTION: Executive Director

5.6 IT and information management

a) Overview of tasks/resources

The Executive Director advised that whilst the Society had made significant efforts and had been generally successful in improving IT and information management over the last few years a significant improvement agenda remained and resources are limited. The appointment of a part-time IT and information manager had allowed the Society to replace computer, broadband and phone systems and generate a number of new databases essential to the everyday work of the Society, such as the membership database. However, the timeline for replacing the very much outdated website kept slipping as the incumbent does not have sufficient time to dedicate to building a new website whilst maintaining a reasonable level of support for ongoing tasks. As such Council had agreed in October 2016 that options to outsource this task should be considered. The paper provided at part c to this agenda item attempted to address this point. Council discussed point c), out of order, before point b).

b) Eduroam and Wi-Fi upgrade

This item was taken out of order, following a discussion on item c), the website.

The Deputy Executive Director introduced a paper by the IT and Information Manager that proposed the Society introduce Eduroam and upgrade the Wi-Fi provision at Burlington House.

Council noted the concern over PCI compliance discussed under Treasurers Business and asked that this point be clarified before a decision on Eduroam is taken. Council also sought clarity on the following:

- How will non-academic visitors i.e. those without an @ac.uk email address, access the network?
- Will the Society need to create accounts for them that work everywhere and will they enjoy the same privileges as academic visitors?
- How will the network work for staff on meeting days, or other occasions when there are a large number of guests in the building?
- Could we look at an alternative solution where the Society invests in a 4G transmitter for visitors, and keeps the main network restricted to staff?
- Is there a working definition of a 'managed' wireless network?
- What is contained within the £2K support costs proposed in the paper?

The Deputy Executive Director undertook to take these comments back to the IT and information manager and update Council in March.

ACTION: Deputy Executive Director

c) RAS website upgrade

This item was discussed out of order before item b).

The Deputy Executive Director introduced a paper by the IT and Information Manager.

Council discussed the paper and noted the following should be considered as options are developed further:

- The Geological Society has recently updated their website using an external supplier following a competitive tender.
- Support services could be shared between the Courtyard Societies content management.
- Further detail on options, including out sourcing the project including the graphic design content.

Council agreed that it would be helpful to have a member of Council involved in this, and were very grateful to Professor Mike Watson to take on this role. Council were grateful also to Dr Stacey Habergham who volunteered to help after May 2017, when she will no longer be serving on Council.

The President advised that if Council decides to outsource the content management then Dr Mandy Bailey, Secretary 'A' had advised that she could undertake this work on a freelance basis. Concerns about conflict of interest were raised, although it was noted that the Society has an agreement with the Charities Commission that allows a discrete number of Fellows to be paid to deliver services if required.

Council agreed to reconsider options at a later date.

5.7 Update on NAMS (2017/2018/2019)

Professor Brad Gibson updated Council on plans for NAM 2017.

The National Astronomy Meeting (NAM) will be held at the University of Hull from Sunday, 2nd July to Thursday, 6th July 2017.

- Abstract submissions to open in early February with a deadline of 14th April
- Registration to open in early March 2017
- Parallel session organisers to decide on talks and inform speakers by the 28th April
- Early registration closes 12th May
- Late registration closes 23rd June

The Executive Director sought assurances that there was enough flexibility in the arrangements for campus accommodation that the University/Society would not be left liable for payment for unused rooms. Professor Gibson advised that he was not expecting any problems in this regard.

Council were advised that the Council meeting would be held on the Wednesday, 5th July 2017.

2018

Professor Mike Bode and Dr Stacey Habergham updated Council on the emerging plans for hosting the joint EWASS/NAM in Liverpool in 2019.

A planning meeting with the commercial conference organisers, Kuoni, had been arranged for the 27/28 February 2017.

[**POST COUNCIL NOTE:** The Office, Events and Building Manager, and the Deputy Executive Director met with Kuoni, representatives of the EAS, and the Local Organising Committee, on 27 and 28 February. They visited the different venues for the conference and associated events, and discussed arrangements for the meeting.]

2019

The Executive Director advised that UCL had recently given their apologies as they can no longer host NAM in 2019.

It was agreed that the University of Lancaster should be approached.

ACTION: Professor Hiranya Peiris VP(A) and Executive Director

5.8 CDAG Minutes

Dr Stacey Habergham drew Council's attention to a few key points raised in the minutes:

The IAU had been informed that Dr Allington Smith had been accused of bringing the Society into disrepute; they had replied to say that the IAU does not have a process to expel members.

Two papers on introducing a RAS harassment and bullying survey, and asking those standing for Council to provide detail on their thoughts on management of diversity and inclusion issues, will be provided to Council in March 2017.

Council approved the recommendation that Professor Hiranya Peiris replace Professor Andrew Norton on CDAG.

5.9 RAS 200: Sky and Earth Steering Group Minutes

This item was discussed earlier, see item 5.1.

5.10 RAS Research Fellowships, update on 2017 selection process

The President updated Council on the selection process that had recently concluded. 80 applications had been received; quality was high as in previous years. He noted the following:

- there were relatively fewer Geophysics based applications, in particular not many Solid Earth Geophysics applications
- two teleconferences were held, a long list of 15 was shortlisted to 8 who were interviewed
- the range/breakdown of the shortlist applications by subject, sex and location was: 1 solar, 3 exoplanets, 4 astrophysics and Cosmology, 6 male, 2 female, 3 UK, 2 France, 1 Argentina, 1 south Africa, 1 Australia.

Informal offers had been made and accepted by the two front runners.

The President thanked Saskia Goes, Glenn White, Anthony Challinor, Robert Crittenden, Caitriona Jackman and Giovanna Tinetti on the selection panel and gave a special thanks to Annette Webb, the Office, Events and Buildings manager, who had provided excellent administrative support to the process.

He noted that the process would start earlier next year to enable independent references to be sought before the Christmas holidays, and the next time we award both a RAS and Norman Lockyer Fellowship (in 2020), separate lists for both awards would be generated at an early stage.

6. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Building our Industrial Strategy: Green Paper

The Deputy Executive Director reminded Council that except for the impact of Brexit, the outcome of the Government's approach to building the industrial strategy is the most significant policy initiative likely to affect the A&G community. As such he invited Council members to provide him with comments for the Society's response, due in mid-April. This matter had been discussed at the Astronomy Forum and both UKSA and STFC had stressed the importance of the Society making a formal response.

ACTION: Council members

It was noted that the 'G' community may have good examples of commercial exploitation of their science and that it would be worthwhile to engage with the Geological Society on this. The Deputy Executive Director agreed to contact Nick Bilham.

ACTION: Deputy Executive Director

It was also noted that Hinkley point and the disposal of nuclear waste had not been considered in the report.

6.2 UK Space Agency: Call for Ideas and Evidence - response from the Royal Astronomical Society

Council noted that the Society's response had been submitted

6.3 External Geophysics Forum

The Deputy Executive Director advised that the external Geophysics Forum had been held on 25 January, and that whilst the discussion had been good and appreciated by those that attended the turnout had been very disappointing with only 8 researchers attending. It was noted that it is becoming difficult to invite the Chief Executive of NERC to a meeting with such a small attendance.

7. PUBLICATIONS

7.1 MNRAS Editors

Council approved the appointment of two new MNRAS scientific editors.

Council noted that Douglas Heggie had stepped down from the editorial board, for family reasons, after serving as an editor for 22 years and expressed their gratitude for his service. He has been replaced by Mark Gieles, University of Surrey.

8. OTHER

8.1 Council approved the following candidates proposed for Fellowship:

First Name	Last Name	Town	Sponsor
Harriet	Godwin	Oxford	Paula Koelemeijer
Joseph	Bayley	Glasgow	Graham Woan
Marius	Momanu	London	Carl Murray
Michael	Whitaker	Brighton	Anna Barnett
Anusha	Gupta	Ilford	Francisco Diego
Graeme	Durden	Werbugh	Roger O'Brien Anne-Marie Weijmans
Meng	Yang	St Andrews	Weijmans
Tina	Gohil	London	Anna Barnett
Shifan	Zhao	Brighton	Anna Barnett
Grammatiki	Lioliou	Brighton	Anna Barnett
Charutha	Krishnan	Nottingham	Elizabeth Cooke
Cathie	Clarke	Cambridge	Robert Carswell
Ioana	Ciuca	Dorking	Daisuke Kawata
Charles	Walker	Manchester	Anna Scaife
Ashley	Chrimes	Kenilworth	Elizabeth Stanway
Ewen	Davies	London	Michele Dougherty
Rachel	Mohi	London	Francisco Diego
Francesca	von Braun-Bates	Oxford	Jocelyn Bell Burnell
Guy	Paxman	Durham	Christine Peirce

Sam	Anahory	Oxshott	John Evans
Alex	Griffiths	Nottingham	Michael Merrifield
Victoria	Roloff	Bern	Paul Roche
Auke	Slotegraaf	Somerset west	Robert Argyle
Raeesa	Parker	Preston	D Ward-Thompson
Ian	Glendinning	Morpeth	Paul Lewis
Eimear	Gallagher	Newtownabbey	Alan Wood
Leah K	Morabito	Oxford	Aprajita Verma
Joanne	Richardson	Bleadon	Christopher Starr
Maurits	Metman	Leeds	Jonathan Mound
Gabriele	Coppi	Warrington	Andrew May
Zahra	Gomes	Oxford	Aprajita Verma
Vittorio	Marchisio	London	Roger Clowes
Sarah	Jaffa	Cardiff	Anthony Whitworth
Hannah	Dalgleish	Liverpool	Stacey Habergham
Aneesh	Naik	Cambridge	Mark Hurn
Ana	Cernok	Milton Keynes	Mahesh Anand
Neil	Norman	Ipswich	Richard Pearson
Albert	Kong	Hsinchu	Philip Charles
Simon	Martin	Liverpool	Richard Holme
Hugh	Harkins	Glasgow	Andrew Norton
Guy	Wells	Northolt	Richard Pearson
Matthew	Griffin	Cardiff	Michael Edmunds
Soheb	Mandhai	Leicester	Nial Tanvir
Nicholas	Heavens	London	Leigh Fletcher
Kevin J	Honour	Yeading	Francisco Diego
Thomas	Scragg	Manchester	Rene Breton
Graham	Ashley	Woking	Roger O'Brien
Judith	Simmons	Dartford	Roger O'Brien
Reuben	Margerison	Manchester	Stacey Habergham
Marcus	Cameron	York	Emily Brunsdn
Michael	Garrett	Manchester	Ralph Spencer
Mason Andrew	Kass	Denver	Membership committee
John	Whitcher	Gwent	Membership committee
Kate	Blackman	Milton Keynes	Membership committee

Professor Brad Gibson asked whether there was an automatic process to take the second year subscriptions from student members as it had not happened with his students. It was agreed that this point would be checked.

[**POST COUNCIL NOTE:** The Membership Officer advised that the amount is not taken automatically as students are required to produce proof of their student status every year by completing a student declaration form, they will have been sent renewals paperwork.]

8.2 Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings (December, 2016 and January, 2017)

Council approved the Minutes of the A&G meetings held in December 2016 and January 2017.

8.3 Voices of Science

Council considered a paper by Dr Sue Bowler and Professor Mike Edmunds that proposed that the Society, in partnership with the British Library (BL), produce a set of extended oral history interviews with carefully chosen Fellows, to become part of the national collection, held and managed by the British Library. The approximate cost would be £44,000 for ~15 10-15 hour interviews, including research, content summaries and indexing for searches.

The Executive Director advised that consideration of proposals to celebrate the bicentenary had been deliberately postponed as an overall budget has not been set and will, in all likelihood, not be set until there is more clarity on future accommodation costs. Whilst the 'Voices for Science' project had arisen through the bicentenary planning group's deliberations it could be considered a stand-alone project that the Society should consider regardless of the bicentenary planning.

Council discussed the merits of this proposal; whilst in principle they liked the concept they agreed to look into the detail of the proposal (out of committee) with a view to considering a pilot of 2 or 3 interviews and if successful seeking alternative funding such as Heritage Lottery funding.

ACTION: Council members

9. AOB

9.1 Garden Party

The Executive Director advised that the ballot for garden party tickets would be held on Monday 13th February.

9.2 New Executive Secretary GSL

The Executive Director advised that the Geological Society had appointed Richard Hughes to the position of Executive Secretary, he will take up the position on the 8th May 2017 (www.linkedin.com/in/hughesrichard)

Council rose at 15:10



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Professor J. Zarnecki

10th March 2017