

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the RPS East Anglian Region which was held remotely using Zoom.

The meeting commenced at 10:30 on Sunday June 14th 2020

Attendees:

Jonathan Vaines (JV)
Andy Swain (AS)
Matthew Clarke (MC)
Gill Beckett (GB)
Sue Vaines (SV)
Mike Bareham (MB)
John Speller (JS)
Jim Bennett (JB)
Debra Bennett (DB)
Ian Wilson (IW)
Andrew Seddon (ASe)
Ann Miles (AM)

1. Apologies for Absence

Moira Ellice
Dave Balcombe
Mark Farrington

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting 2019

The minutes of the meeting were accepted, They were proposed by Ann Miles and seconded by Matthew Clarke.

The attendees voted on acceptance of the minutes, 80% in favour and 20% abstained. Therefore the minutes were accepted.

It was agreed that the minutes would be signed by the RO at a point when face to face meetings can again take place.

3. Matter Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers' Reports

4A Treasurer's Report

Andy Swain (AS) talked through the current financial situation in the region and the activities affecting the accounts, since the last AGM. AS stated that account for the region stand at around £10.500, £664 less than at the time of the AGM last year.

This money was used in the running of events such as the Hazel Mason and James Frost lecture.

AS stated that at present time there is no way of predicting the effect that the COVID 19 crisis will have on the Society or the EAR.

John Speller (JS) asked why the region had started giving out certificates rather than medals to award winners. It was confirmed that it is not just the region that is affected by this, it appears to be RPS policy. It was agreed that medals and ribbons are much more meaningful than certificates.

JV and JS agreed to raise the issue with Mike Taylor. Matthew Clarke (MC) also stated that he would raise the issue in his role as Exhibition Secretary.

4B Regional Organiser's Report

JV read through his report.

JV stated that since the last AGM the RPS has had 2 new Presidents and now also has a President Elect.

The RPS have introduced a new website, which after a shaky start appears to be being well received. JV stated that he and SV spent a lot of time, more than should have been necessary, working out how to get the Region's site re written in line with the new website. JV has now done this, and, the results are very good. The EAR website is very active and engaging well with members .

JV had received offers from 3 people to help with setting up events alongside some of the SIGs. These progressed well up to the point that the lockdown came into force. Photographic trips are particularly successful.

JV stated that, though he originally agreed only to take on the role of acting RO, he has been persuaded to revise this and will now be RO until 2022.

JV stated that the RPS are in the process of changing the format and the frequency of the Journal.

JV thanked the Region's membership for their support and asked people to make the most of the facilities and events being offered by the Society.

JV stated that the RPS policy on how the Regions and the SIGs handle their finances has completely changed. The groups are now being encouraged to spend money for the benefit of the membership. JV asked for ideas as to best how to use this money. Ian Wilson (IW) stated the Region has always made money on holding Advisory days. IW stated that it had been RPS policy that no Region should lose out financially by holding these, and that this is no longer the case. IW stated that, as RO, he used to fund free meetings alongside some of the SIGs to spend some of the money made at Advisory days. JV stated that the next planned Advisory day has been moved to Foxton to allow it to run behind closed doors.

JV stated that there is move afoot to bring all the Region's bank accounts into one, rather than having individual accounts. The Region would still have the same amount of money, it will just be held centrally. It was agreed that this was a good way forward. IW stated that the current situation is an anachronism and should be changed. AS stated that the current situation is weird, as he has no access to the Region's money even though it has a separate account.

Andrew Seddon (ASe) asked how much it cost to run day field trips with around 10 people. JV and AS stated that the only cost to the Society was travel expenses for the volunteers running the events. The RPS states that volunteers should never be out of pocket. Sometimes non members are asked to pay a nominal fee of around £5. So photography days are cheap to run. ASe stated he would be happy to run outings on the North Norfolk coast.

JV stated that there was another trip planned to the Open University.

5. Election of Officers

At this point everyone on the Committee, except for JV, resigned.

JV explained that since the last AGM it had been agreed to cut the number of people on the Committee to 4. JV thanked Moira Ellice and Nigel Rea for their support and help and stated that both Moira and Nigel have agreed to continue help with Region's Exhibition, which will now take place every other year.

Nominations were received from Moira Ellice, Nigel Rea and Matthew prior to the meeting for the roles to be filled as stated below. Due to the lockdown these forms have not yet been signed, but, GB has received confirmation of the nominations electronically.

Regional Officer (acting) Jonathan Vaines

Treasurer Andy Swain

Secretary Gill Beckett

Exhibition Secretary

Matthew Clarke

The new committee was unanimously voted in, *en bloc*, in by the meeting.

8. Any Other Business

No other business was presented to the EARPS Committee.

Jim Bennett (JB) asked if the meeting had to approve the accounts. AS stated that the accounts were pre-approved by Bristol. AS provides financial reports to Bristol quarterly for approval.

IW thanked JV on behalf of the whole Region for taking over the role of RO at a very difficult time. IW stated that JV is doing a great job in the role.

AS offered thanks to everyone involved in the work of getting the new website up and running.

JV stated that the RPS are offering a lot of free and low cost remote talks currently, via Facebook. The Society is doing a good job with keeping events going during this time. IW agreed and stated that the current situation is helping the RPS re-think the way things should be run.

The meeting closed at 11:15.