

Subterranea Britannica Annual General Meeting 2020 – Minutes

31st October 2020, Online using GoogleMeet.

The meeting was opened at 10.00 by the Chairman, Tim Wellburn, who welcomed all those attending. 55 members were present. The online platform allowed members to see each other, along with a set of slides covering the content of the meeting. Attendees had the facility to add comments, by typing them in, and could then ask a question.

1. Apologies were received from:
 - Jason Holdcroft, Nic Shore, Penelope Cash and Jennie Lill
2. The Minutes of the AGM 2019 held on 27 April were published to all members in **Subterranea #51**, August 2019. It was proposed by Alistair Graham Kerr and seconded by Chris Hobdell that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting; the proposal was accepted by those attending with 6 abstentions.
3. Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2019. This has been published to all members on Sub Brit's web site. The Annual Report was also published in **Subterranea #53**, April 2020. Tim's presentation highlighted some of the key achievements of 2019:
 - Strong financial position
 - Membership healthy (1000+)
 - 500,000+ visits to website www.subbrit.org.uk and growing social media use
 - Full programme of conferences and visits, including Berlin Study weekend
 - Major update of public and member website platforms
 - Grants for underground bodies including Williamson's Tunnels
 - International coverage in **Subterranea** & wide-ranging Members' Forum
4. Key Developments in 2020. Tim covered some events of this extraordinary year:
 - A year re-defined by Covid - and Sub Brit's necessary responses to it
 - 2020 Day Meetings became 2021 events - lecture & visit programmes saved
 - New **"In the Dark"** Webinars: going underground around the world. Tim thanked Tony Radstone and Richard Seabrook for setting these up, plus all the presenters.
 - **Subterranea** Magazine: wide-ranging issues delivered in April & August
 - **Subterranea** Archive: Issues 1-48 now on-line along with a new searchable Index
 - Martin Dixon retired as Chairman after 13 years of committed and inspirational leadership of Subterranea Britannica. Tim announced that Martin had been awarded Honorary Life Membership of Sub Brit, in recognition of his substantial contribution to Sub Brit over the years.
5. Statement of Financial Activities: Sub Brit's Accounts have been signed off by the Committee and Independent Examiner and have been filed at Companies House and the Charity Commission.
 - David Ferris asked about Sub Brit's closing cash balance. Tony Radstone replied that Sub Brit was using this to make grants to support underground activities. Martin Dixon replied that SB's cash reserves are in line with our policy to keep between 6 and 18 months of turnover in our Reserves.
 - David Ferris also queried a substantial Income for events. Tony Radstone pointed out that this was matched by expenditure for each event.

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6. Elections of Officers and Committee. Tim explained recent changes:

Retired:

- Paul Sowan (Trustee). Paul served on the Committee for over 35 years, of which 25 years was spent as Chairman.
- Alistair Graham-Kerr (Committee Member)
- both were thanked for their contributions.

Joined:

- Neil Iosson (previously co-opted)

Changed Roles:

- Martin Dixon: Retired as Chairman; continues as Committee Member
- Tim Wellburn: Acting Chairman (from June 2020)
- Richard West: Acting Vice-Chairman (from October 2020)

The motion that nominations for Sub Brit's Committee be considered 'en-bloc' was proposed by Phil Catling and seconded by Bob Templeman. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. The motion to elect the following Committee members was carried unanimously. There are still vacancies for more members to join the Committee – please get in touch if you'd like to discuss or come along to a meeting to see how it works.

The elected Committee for 2020/21 is:-

Tim Wellburn	Chairman
Linda Dixon	Secretary
Tony Radstone	Treasurer
Richard West	Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary
Richard Seabrook	Member (Webmaster)
Phil Catling	Member (SB Meetings)
Jason Hughes	Member (Shop mailings)
Neil Iosson	Member (Website content manager)
Martin Dixon	Member
Bob Templeman	Member
Chris Gray	Member

The Meeting officially closed at 10.25.

Post AGM Note: Due to the extended reporting period, we forgot to record that Nick Catford resigned from the Committee in September 2019. Nick was also awarded Honorary Membership in recognition of his enormous services to Sub Brit, as a committee member for over 30 years and lately as membership secretary. Nick continues as Subterranea editor.