

The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the twentieth meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 6 December 2005.

Present: Allan Rogers, Chairman
Chris King, Vice-Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit/Geological Society of London)
David Bailey, Secretary (British Geological Survey)
Cally Oldershaw, ESEF(EW) Development Officer
Liv Carroll (MIRO/Capita Symonds)
Tim Parry (Quarry Products Association)
Malcolm Walker (Royal Meteorological Society)
Peter Warren

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from representatives of the following member organisations: Earth Science Teachers' Association; Geographical Association; Geologists' Association/Rockwatch; Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining; National Museum of Wales; National Stone Centre; Royal Society of Chemistry; UKRIGS.

2 Chairman's introduction

2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited round-table introductions.

3 Minutes of the nineteenth meeting, 20 September 2005

The minutes of the nineteenth meeting were accepted as a true record. D Bailey to upload a copy to the ESEF(EW) website. **Action: David Bailey**

4 Matters arising

[Numbers in square brackets are paragraph numbers from the minutes of the previous meeting.]

[2.3] *Launch of ESEF-Cymru:* C Oldershaw reported that the invitation list had been drafted, letters of invitation had been sent to members of the National Assembly for Wales and a leaflet was being translated into Welsh. About 70 people were to be invited including all members of the Forum. Some additional invitees were suggested by members. The Chairman said the Forum could make an impact in Wales, the launch would provide a platform for attracting funds. Unfortunately Professor David Bowen was unable to give the public lecture; Prof. Paul Pearson would replace him and speak on 'Climate Change: Past, Present and Future'. The NMW were organising the lecture and hundreds of invitations would be issued for this part of the launch.

[2.4] *Sponsorship for ESEF(EW) leaflet:* C Oldershaw reported that an application had been made to the Curry Fund to sponsor an ESEF(EW) leaflet.

[5] *Natural Disasters meeting:* The Chairman reported that this event had been very successful, despite some problems with the original venue. He thanked those involved in organising the event, especially Dr Kim Howells, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who had helped to find an alternative venue and had sponsored the meeting. Feedback from the meeting had been very positive and some very useful networking had taken place.

[5.2] *ESEF(EW) Annual Conference:* The Chairman noted that, while the Forum was having an impact through conferences, parliamentary liaison and networking, funds still needed to be secured. Therefore, it would not be practicable to hold the Conference as early as March 2006. Chris King suggested a single bid covering the day-to-day costs of running the Forum and of the Conference into a single bid to MIEP or to the ALSF (possibly via English Nature rather than MIRO). To avoid bias towards the aggregates industry, it might also be worthwhile approaching the appropriate Sector Skills Council. The format of the Conference was

discussed; it was suggested that the presentations should be limited to 15 minutes, allowing more time for discussion. The Chairman said he hoped to have discussed funding with Gordon Riddler and the Minister of State before the next meeting. **Action: Chairman**

[10.1] *SESEF update*: [13.1] *ESEF(EW) 'Away-days'*: M Walker presented a short paper. The University of Reading could provide a venue for the proposed workshop. The Royal Meteorological Society would cover the costs of catering. The Forum agreed that the proposed meeting should go ahead and the Chairman asked M Walker to work up the proposal in conjunction with the Forum Officers. It was suggested that the meeting should be held on 28 March 2006.

[13.2] *Qualifications and Curriculum Authority*: C King reported that QCA had held a consultation meeting on the A-level geology criteria and the final document would be issued for discussion soon.

5 Finance report

The Chairman reported that new avenues of funding were being pursued.

6 Development Officer's report

6.1 Cally Oldershaw tabled the report appended to these minutes as Annexe A.

6.2 A decision from the United Nations on the proposed International Year of Planet Earth was expected soon.

6.3 Members were invited to suggest titles and speakers for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences. 'Thames Gateway Regeneration', 'Natural Gas Supplies for the UK' and 'Nuclear Power' (jointly with the Energy Group) were suggested.

7 ESEF(EW) website (www.esef.org.uk)

Two new sections had been added to the website since the nineteenth meeting: links to the educational resources on members' websites and a diary section for collaborative events.

8 SESEF update

C King reported that a new SESEF Development Officer, Clare Britton, had been appointed and would take up her post in January 2006. Primary funding for the post was provided by Scottish Natural History. One of her duties would be to raise funds.

9 Government policy issues

A manifesto promoting education outside the classroom was to be published for consultation in January 2006. Members were encouraged to comment on the document. Members were also reminded that Colin Prosser had circulated an e-mail on geodiversity and education; several members said they had not received it. C Oldershaw offered to recirculate it for comment.

Action: Cally Oldershaw, All members

10 Annual Conference

Roger Trend had circulated ideas on training as a possible theme for the conference. Giles Miller had also asked that the role of museums in education should be covered at the conference. The Chairman asked for these ideas to be taken to the workshop on 28 March for consideration by Members.

11 Potential collaborative projects

11.1 C King suggested that key representatives from the oil, extractive and mineral industries should be brought together to discuss work force issues. It was AGREED that an Earth Science Work Force Forum should be held on 7 February 2006 at IOM³ and that invitations would be sent to the Chief Executives of QPA, UKOOA and others as soon as possible.

- 11.2 T Parry, on behalf of Ian Thomas, reported that the National Stone Centre was seeking the support of Forum members for a lottery bid for an enhanced Epicentre-UK project involving Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. The Chairman said that he was sure members would support this bid in principle and asked for more specific details to be forwarded to the Secretary for circulation. **Action: Tim Parry**
- 11.3 L Carroll reported that there was a small amount of money left in the MIRO ALSF budget and a small project had been submitted to connect schools with geological educational sites. There was a problem in that the bid needed a non-profit organisation as a partner. The bid would be resubmitted in the new year with C Oldershaw named as an ESEF(EW) representative. **Action: Liv Carroll, Cally Oldershaw**
- 11.4 C Oldershaw reported that she had attended a meeting at the Royal Society to discuss the Wellcome Trust report on primary education. The report might be relevant to the workshop on 28 March. Members would be kept informed of any progress. **Action: Cally Oldershaw**

12 AOB

- 12.1 *Proposed dioramas at Science Learning Centres:* Chris King reported that a potential project manager and four artists had been identified but that the candidate project manager was not currently available. Tim Parry suggested there was scope for school quarry visits in connection with the dioramas and said he would be keen to follow this up.
- 12.2 *Institute of Physics:* Malcolm Walker reported that he had met representatives of IoP recently and that they had expressed an interest in joining the Forum. Cally Oldershaw to follow up. **Action: Cally Oldershaw**

14 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at **1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 21 February 2006** [NB later amended to **Tuesday 7 March 2006**] at IOM³ in 1 Carlton House Terrace.

The next meeting of ESEF-Cymru will be at **4 p.m. on 24 January 2006** in the National Museum of Wales.

David Bailey 13 February 2006

Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Development Officer's Report 5 December 2005

General

1. Action points in the minutes of the last meeting have been addressed

Meetings attended, Reports and Projects

1. Meeting at the Royal Society 26/27 October Natural Hazards
2. Meeting at the Royal Society 30 November Primary Science

New Members and *Proformas*

2. *proforma* sent to English Nature for completion

E-mail dissemination included:

1. List of all meetings of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences
2. International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) update
3. Forthcoming International Geoscience Education Conference in Bayreuth, Germany, 18–21 September 2006

Annual Conference 2005/6

1. Initial discussions on topics and speakers have taken place
2. Comments and suggestions have been received from Roger Trend, Giles Miller and others
3. Provisional date – Spring 2006

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences

- Meetings held:

18 October: 'The Falklands - Another North Sea? The Geology and Politics of Oil Exploration in the South Atlantic' Speakers: William Marsden Former Ambassador to Argentina and Director, Americas, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Dr Colin Phipps (Chair, Desire Petroleum). Robert Gatliff (British Geological Survey) was also present.

8 November: 'Natural Disasters Day' international meeting held in conjunction with the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST). Speakers confirmed. Keynote speech given by Sir David King (Chief Scientific Adviser, HM Government). Phil Woolas MP (Minister for London Resilience) gave a presentation. Sir Gordon Conway (Chief Scientific Adviser, DfID) chaired a session. Conference abstracts, presentations and programme will be made available via the ESEF website.

15 November: 'Repair or Rebuild?' Speakers: Chris Wood (English Heritage), Alan Thompson (Capita Symonds). Approx 70 attendees.

6 December: '5,000 years of gemstone tricks and treatments' Speaker: Dr Jack Ogden (Chief Executive, Gemmological Association of GB)

2. Future meetings:

Officers of the Group will be meeting in January to discuss the future programme. ESEF members are invited to suggest titles and speakers.

ESEF(EW) in Wales

1. The launch event of ESEF–Cymru will be on 24 January 2006 in the Icons Suite of the National Museum of Wales with a meeting for key stakeholders (approx 45) at 4.30pm and then a wine reception, followed at 6.30pm by a public lecture by Professor David Bowen (University of Wales Cardiff) for a wider audience (maximum 380 attendees) in the Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre.
2. Letters of invitation have been sent to relevant members of the Welsh Assembly to attend both the stakeholders meeting and the lecture.
3. Draft Invitation list for the stakeholders meeting is complete.
4. The Education Department at the National Museum of Wales are sending out a full mailing to all educational establishments in Wales to advertise the lecture.

Charity Commission

Following the loss of papers, the application process has been re-started and further sets of forms received from the Charity Commission.

End

5 December 2005

Cally Oldershaw