

The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the twenty-ninth meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 7 October 2008.

Present: Chris King, Co-Chairman (and Earth Science Education Unit)
David Bailey, Secretary (British Geological Survey)
Cally Oldershaw, ESEF(EW) Executive Officer (Association for Science Education)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts and UKRIGS)
Susan Brown (Geologists' Association and Rockwatch)
Chris Carlon (Anglo American)
Chloe French (Scott Wilson)
Judith Mansell (Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers)
Jack Ogden (Gemmological Association)
Colin Osborne (Royal Society of Chemistry)
Paul Pounsford (Daybreak Communications representing Quarry Products Association)
Peter Warren
Toby White (Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Allan Rogers, Chairman, and representatives of the following organisations: Committee of the Heads of University Geoscience Departments; Cranfield University; Earth Science Teachers' Association; the Geographical Association; Geological Society of London; Imperial College; Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining and Ecton Mine Trust; the Learning, Teaching and Skills Network – Geography Environmental and Earth Sciences; the National Stone Centre; the Natural History Museum; the Open University; the Royal Meteorological Society; STEMNET.

2 Chairman's introduction

Chris King, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and conveyed Allan Rogers' apologies for being unable to attend. He added that an important issue had arisen — Cally Oldershaw had resigned as Executive Officer and the Forum needed to discuss how they should proceed.

3 Minutes of the twenty-eighth meeting, 17 June 2008

The minutes of the twenty-eighth meeting were accepted as a true record. A copy would be placed on the ESEF(EW) website. **Action: D Bailey**

4 Matters arising

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

- 4.1 *[2] Chairman's Introduction (subscriptions):* Cally Oldershaw had drafted a letter and sent to the Chairman for approval. C Osborne asked what the cost of the subscription was. C Oldershaw replied that members were encouraged to pay a subscription of £150. But it was recognised that some organisations could not afford this amount and would not be excluded as a result. Equally, members were welcome to make larger contributions if they were able to do so. DB requested that the IOM3 bank account details were included with the subscription to simplify the process of paying subscriptions. **Action: Pending decision on Executive Officer's role**
- 4.2 *[3] Minutes of previous meeting:* The minutes were not yet posted on the website, but should be uploaded soon. **Action: D Bailey**
- 4.3 *[4.3] WJEC GCSE Geology:* The new specification had been approved by the QCA and had received a good response at the ESTA Conference.

- 4.4 [10] *Annual Conference*: Outstanding action with Allan Rogers. **Action: A Rogers**
- 4.5 [12] *AOB*: Presentations would be made today, convened by Toby White. Susan Brown to convene presentations at the December meeting. **Action: S Brown**

5 Finance report

C Oldershaw reported that the end-of-year finance report was in preparation by IOM3. They had confirmed that the balance currently stood at £1020.41.

6 Executive Officer's report

- 6.1 C Oldershaw confirmed that she had stepped down as Executive Officer but would remain as the liaison between the Forum and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences.
- 6.2 DB offered to provide administrative support through BGS to ensure that the programme of meetings would continue and that the Forum's financial matters would be dealt with.
- 6.3 On behalf of the Forum, CK thanked Cally for her efforts over several years.
- 6.4 C Oldershaw reminded members that there would be an All-Party Group meeting between 6 and 7 p.m. that evening. Professor John Gluyas would be speaking on "Squeezing the Barrel — Improved Recovery of Petroleum from Oil & Gas Fields". The Christmas meeting would be on Tuesday 9 December when Bryan Lovell would give a talk entitled "Written in the Rocks — climate change, the Government and the Oil Industry". The Christmas meeting would be followed by a reception (venue to be announced).

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

DB apologised for failing to post the minutes of the latest meeting and said this would be attended to shortly. There were no other developments to report.

8 SESEF update

CK reported that SESEF had appointed a new Development Officer, Catherine Morgan, who had experience in teaching geography.

9 Government policy issues

C Oldershaw encouraged members to respond to the consultation on the Primary Curriculum Review. ASE had been working with QCA. She would forward the email containing details to DB for circulation to members. **Action: C Oldershaw**

10 Annual Conference

Action with Allan Rogers to consult officers of APGES.

11 Potential collaborative projects

Nothing to report.

12 AOB

- 12.1 Colin Osborne said that he would be retiring on 30 January so would be leaving the Forum. On behalf of the Forum, CK thanked him for his contributions over several years.
- 12.2 DB reported that BGS would be publishing a five-year strategy for consultation on 11 November and that members were invited to comment. He would email members with details when the draft was available.
- 12.3 C Oldershaw reported that Derek Bell, the Chief Executive of ASE would be leaving to take up the post of Head of Education for the Wellcome Trust.
- 12.4 CC reported that he had attended a FINEX meeting at the Geological Society of London on 24 September. One of the items discussed was the geoscience skills gap. Gordon Riddler had

chaired a very lively session but many misconceptions about geoscience had been expressed. This subject might warrant further discussion. The Geological Society Careers Day, which this year would be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre on 17 November, provided a good opportunity to meet geoscience students and there would be a cross-section of potential employers present.

- 12.5 S Brown reported that Rockwatch were working with the Geological Society to hold an event for schools on 25 November. 14- and 15-year-old students from schools in north London were being invited to discuss energy supply in the twenty-first century, climate change and sustainable development. It was hoped that local MPs would be present and feedback would be collected from students on their concerns.
- 12.6 C Oldershaw mentioned that the ASE Annual Conference would be held at Reading University from 8-10 January 2009.

13 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for **1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 9 December 2008** at IOM³ in 1 Carlton House Terrace.

Interactions between industry and schools

Following the meeting, presentations on interactions between industry and schools were made by:

- Toby White, IOM3
- Chris Carlon, Anglo American
- Paul Pounsford, Daybreak Communications (on their work with QPA)
- David Bailey, BGS
- Chloe French, Scott Wilson

The presentations and supporting materials will be circulated to members on request.

David Bailey, 1 December 2008