

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Environmental Protection UK held 23rd February 2022 via Zoom

Present:

Professor Jim Longhurst, President
Christopher Fry, Chair Board of Trustees, (West Midlands Division)
Graham Jukes, Vice-President
Neil Turner, Vice President
Derek Osborn, Vice-President
Robin Lancefield, Chair of Land Quality Committee
Sarah Legge, Acting Chair of Air Quality Committee
John Murlis, Special Trustee
Neil Macdonald, Special Trustee
Stephen Moorcroft, Special Trustee
Richard Mills, Special Trustee
Keith Budden, Special Trustee
Alan Jones, Individual Member
John Merefield, Trustee, (South West)
Ruth Calderwood, City of London Corporation
Peter Mitchell, Financial Consultant
Bernard Fisher, IACEM
Elizabeth Ovenden, Ackworth Quaker Meeting
Louise Siddorn, Vice-Chair of Land Quality Committee
John Bynorth, Environmental Protection Scotland
Vanessa Tanner, EPUK Secretariat

1. Introduction and Welcome by Chair of Trustees.

Christopher Fry, Chair of Trustees, thanked and welcomed Members to the AGM of the Society.

2. Apologies for absence:

David Rudland, Daniel McCrory, Staffordshire Morland DC

3. Agree the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on 26th February 2020.

The minutes had been previously circulated and are also available on the EPUK website. There were no changes required so the minutes were accepted as true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Keith Budden

Seconded: Robin Lancefield

4. Note the accounts for year ended 31 March 2021.

The accounts had been previously distributed and are also available on the website. CF highlighted the drop in subscription income from the previous year and stressed the need to focus on marketing the benefits of membership. It was felt there is concern, but not panic. Neil Turner added that EPUK has a good horizon to look towards and membership issues can be solved by targeted marketing.

Proposed: Professor Jim Longhurst

Seconded: John Murlis

5. Trustees' Report by the Chair of Trustees.

The report had previously been circulated and is available on the website and CF highlighted particular aspects.

5.1 He said that whilst the Trustees' Annual report refers to the period ending 31st March 2021, he wanted to update the AGM on important current work.

- CF said that as the new Environment Act 2021 is a high priority for the Society, the President had arranged a zoom call with Dame Glenys Stacey on 2nd March: she is the Chair of the newly created Office of Environmental Protection which takes over the role as independent watchdog which was carried out by the European Court of Justice when the UK was an EU Member State. It is envisaged that this will establish a good liaison between the Society and this Government watchdog.
- One key development this year has been for the Society to take back ownership, free of charge, of the online version of 'Essential Environment' from Environmental Technology Publications Limited, part of International Labmate with effect from the 1st January 2022; this valuable reference text had originally been published as the Pollution Handbook by the former National Society for Clean Air before being sold to ILM. However, this moves involves contracting the current Editor & IT Consultant but there is optimism that enough subscriptions can be attracted to cover these cost. One licence has already been purchased by a lawyer and it is also being promoted by Environmental Protection Scotland, the sister charity.

5.2 CF said that EPUK continues as a volunteer-led Charity with the Board of Trustees comprising very busy professionals who give their time & expertise entirely free. He paid tribute to Ulya Vasan, Ruth Calderwood & Dr. David Muir who have resigned owing to family and work pressures. He said that EPUK urgently needs new and younger Trustees. CF said that the Society is now benefiting from the marketing expertise of Neil MacDonald, the most recent Trustee and Barney Larkin, currently an adviser but potentially a Trustee.

5.3 CF referred to the Divisions which were established by the Constitution which are intended to be locally based channels for Members and for election of their Trustees comprising 11 out of the total 18 Trustees of the Board. He said that these were not functioning as intended and work is needed to resurrect the Divisions. He said that the only Trustees elected were Bob Deller (East Midlands), Dr. David Muir to be replaced by Dr. John Merefield (South West) and Christopher Fry (West Midlands).

5.4 CF thanked the Chairs & Members of the 3 Policy Committees for the work they have all been doing during the pandemic despite the difficulties posed by restrictions. The funds raised by Aviva crowd-funding and the donation from the City of London have enabled the AQ Committee to undertake a major revision of the 2013 edition, 'The EPUK Air Quality and Climate Change Guidance'. The Land Quality and Noise Committees have also been able to continue their valuable work despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

5.5 CF said that the Regional Seminars had hit by the impact of the pandemic and an online LQ seminar was arranged but postponed because of low uptake. Stakeholder seminars are planned for the new Air Quality & Climate Change Guidance.

5.6 CF referred to the 2020 Annual Conference held entirely online and the 2021 hybrid event made possible by sponsorship of the Robert Bosch Company.

5.7 CF emphasised the importance of building relationships with like-minded organisations. He said that the Society is working closely with the UK Clean Air Champions led by Professor Sir Stephen Holgate, one of the Society's valued Vice-Presidents. EPUK also has links with the newly created Local Authority Air Quality Hub and the Institutes of Air Quality Management, Chemical Engineers and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Internationally, the Society has links with EFCA, the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations with John Murlis one of the Vice-Presidents. EPUK also maintains links with IUAPPA, the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations. These partnerships, and others yet to be formed, can be used to increase membership.

5.8 There was a question from Graham Jukes regarding the possible financial burden of 'Essential Environment'. CF said that Trustees were optimistic but that good marketing was key to its success.

5.9 Derek Osborn felt that the theme of 'building back after Covid' was an important opportunity for EPUK with regards to public health challenges exacerbated by the pandemic especially in depressed areas. Sarah Legge added that Covid had supplied a 'crucible in which to test certain theories', for example, the contradiction of ventilation and indoor quality versus energy efficiency.

5.10 Finally, CF thanked Sarah Legge for her hard work standing in as Chair of the AQ Committee in the absence of David Muir. He also thanked Ruth Calderwood for her work chairing the Marketing and Communications Group.

*Acceptance of the Trustees' Annual Report was
Proposed: Jim Longhurst Seconded: John Murlis*

6. Re-Election of EPUK Trustees

In compliance with Regulation 58 of the Articles, the Appointments Committee met on the 7th February and re-elected John Murlis, Stephen Moorcroft, Richard Mills & Keith Budden as Trustees required as their 3-year term of office had expired.

This decision was noted and confirmed by the AGM.

7. Re-election of The EPUK President

Under Regulation 48 of the Articles, the Board of Trustees recommended the re-election of Professor James Longhurst as President of Environmental Protection UK for a further year to the AGM. Members were asked to ratify this appointment under Regulation 88 and the proposal was agreed.

Proposed: Neil Turner Seconded: John Merefield

8. Re-election of EPUK Vice-Presidents

Under Regulation 49 of the Articles the Board of Trustees recommended the re-election as Vice-Presidents of Neil Turner, Derek Osborn, Graham Jukes & Paul Cooney to the AGM. Members were asked to ratify these appointments under Regulation 88.

Proposed: Sarah Legge Seconded: Steve Moorcroft

9. Re-election of EPUK Honorary Members

The election of Neil Turner, Derek Osborn, Graham Jukes & Paul Cooney as Honorary Members of EPUK under Regulation 3(a) was proposed by the Trustees to the AGM and was agreed by those present at the AGM.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiners for the period ending 31 March 2022

Taylor Cox were recommended as the EPUK Independent Examiners for EPUK.

Proposed: Graham Jukes Seconded: John Merefield

The business of the AGM was complete and was followed by a presentation given by Professor Jim Longhurst entitled 'The Changing Role of Local Authorities in Delivering Environmental Protection'. The full presentation can be found on the website in the resources area: [Professor Jim Longhurst Presentation AGM 2022](#)