

CIWEM North Western & North Wales Annual General Meeting 2020

Monday 21 September 2020 | 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Virtual event via Zoom

Minutes of the CIWEM Annual General Meeting 2020

1. Attendance

Present: Amelia Robinson (AR), Ammar Ahmad (AA), Andrew Wall (AW), Barbara Wood (CIWEM) (BW), Cecilia Medupin (CM), Ed Loffill (EL), Eleanor Dale (ED), Hayley Tedford (HT), Jack Dudman (JD), Robert Van (RV)

Apologies: None received.

2. Welcome and introduction

- EL welcomed everyone and gave apologies for the AGM delay due to COVID disruptions.

3. Minutes of previous AGM

- Previous AGM Minutes were accessible during the meeting for reference purposes.
- Minutes were taken as read.

4. Matters arising since previous AGM

- EL will be standing down from the committee at this year's AGM.
- AW will be standing down from the committee at this year's AGM.

5. Chair's report (EL)

- EL explained that branch activity has been reduced considerably primarily due to committee members being preoccupied with the change in working practices.
- EL commented that the recent ICE webinar went well.
- EL noted that all professional bodies have struggled with COVID, including other branches and professional organisations, such as ICE.
- EL said not much money had been spent and that as a result finances are very healthy.
- EL thanked AW for his services to the branch.
- EL thanked the whole committee during the challenging year but believes there is a bright future ahead with advances in technology that more easily enables webinars.
- EL encouraged new committee members in getting involved with organising events.

6. Honorary secretary's report (JD)

- JD outlined that, thanks to the efforts of committee members, the branch had run successful and interesting events on contaminated land and sustainable drainage systems, as well as support events for those seeking chartership.

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- JD mentioned that due to significant turnover of committee staff owing to coincidental tenure ends meant that there was some disruption, and along with issues surrounding COVID-19 restricting potential site visits and networking events, this meant not as many events took place over the preceding year as we had hoped.
- JD said that with newer committee members having had some time to settle in as well as getting used to new ways of working, alongside continued support from CIWEM HQ for undertaking virtual events, it was hoped branch activity would ramp back up again soon.
- JD thanked the present committee and outgoing members as well as everyone at head office for their support during his tenure as honorary secretary.

7. Treasurer's report (HT)

- HT noted the unlocking of the PayPal account, and otherwise little expenditure by the branch.

8. Report on CIWEM headquarters activities

- BW thanked the committee for their time and efforts, and mentioned that efforts have been ongoing for some time to make things more digital, such as enhanced Zoom meeting capacity.
- BW discussed previous CIWEM events, such as those from Alastair Chisholm on nature based solutions and property flood resilience. These were very well attended and linked with International Day for Biodiversity, with another branch doing an event associated with Natural Capital.
- BW said more events in the future should be linked to three themes: greenhouse gas reduction and resilience, land and water management, and flood resilience. These should include national and international influence. Events covering other themes are of course still welcome.
- BW covered the three awards that were open at the time of the meeting: the Margetts Bursary, the Young Environmentalist of the Year, and the UK Junior Water Prize.
- BW highlighted that CIWEM are running and developing many new digital courses that contribute to CPD.
- BW described the upcoming Flood & Coast Digital series in October as a series of four events, starting on 13 October, 9 December, Feb, April. There is a good line-up of speakers on offer. The series will be a 'hybrid' event including both face-to-face presentations and a digital element as well. Details are available online.
- BW said that head office is still working to support branches and is particularly keen to hear about general event themes, for example air pollution.
- BW emphasised that webinars will still be free, but sponsorship is still needed.
- BW thanked everyone on the branch again, talking about the exciting opportunities ahead.

9. Announcement of Chairperson

- EL announced RV as the new chairperson, endorsed by EL and AA.

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10. Election of officers and committee members by nomination and seconds and show of hands vote at the AGM

- HT has stepped down from treasurer to ordinary committee member, to be replaced by ED. Endorsed by EL and AW.
- JD has stepped down from honorary secretary to ordinary committee member, to be replaced by AA. Endorsed by EL and RV. An error in the agenda erroneously omitted JD from the incoming committee member list.
- AR has joined the committee. Endorsed by EL and RV.

11. Any other business

- AA asked about role handovers. EL responded that he would be happy to advise the committee still and will hand over all necessary files to RV.
- RV wanted to thank long-serving members and is excited about new members joining the committee. He appealed for any ideas for events or otherwise.

12. Date of next meeting

- BW stated that the next AGM must be within 18 months of this AGM.
- The date of the next meeting is TBC, but provisionally September 2021.