

CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

Minutes of the CIWEM 34th Annual General Meeting 2021

Attendance

Present: The list of attendees has been appended to the end of the minutes (Refer to Annex A)

Apologies: Warren Boal, Angela Halpenny and Alistair Kenny.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the thirty- third Annual General Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Chair's report
4. Financial governance
5. Secretary's report
6. Report on CIWEM headquarters activities
7. Election of officers and new non-officer committee members by nomination and seconds and show of hands vote at the AGM
8. Installation of Chairman for the 2021/2022 Programme
9. Any other business

1. Minutes of 2019 / 2020 AGM

The minutes of the Thirty-third Annual General Meeting, held on the 17th of May 2019, were proposed by Robert Smith and seconded by Claire Vincent that these were a true and accurate record of the AGM.

2. Matters arising

No issues.

3. Outgoing Chair's report

Daniel Hogan gave his Chairman's Report for the year 2020/2021 through the use of PP. This has been appended to the minutes (Annex B)

4. Treasurer's report

The Honorary Treasurers Report was read by Caoimhe Toner and has been appended to the end of the minutes (Refer to Annex C).

5. Honorary secretary's report

The Honorary Secretary's Report was read by Louise Mc Namee and has been appended to the end of the minutes (Refer to Annex D).

CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

6. Report on CIWEM headquarters activities

Update provided by Barbara Woods from headquarters.

Barbara expressed her thanks to the CIWEM NI committee and provided an overview of how the year ahead might go pending government restrictions. i.e via Zoom.

7. Election of committee for 2021 / 2022 programme

The committee members for the 2021/2022 session are as follows:

- Chairman – Robert Smith (McAdam Design)
- Senior Vice Chair – Orla Crothers (NI Water)
- Junior Vice Chair - Andrew Harte (NI Water)
- Honorary Treasurer – Caoimhe Tonar (Water Solutions Ireland)
- Honorary Secretary – Louise McNamee (Atkins)
- Immediate Past Chairman – Daniel Hogan (ESB)
- Committee Member – Angela Halpenny (NI Water)
- Committee Member – Warren Boal (Amey)
- Committee Member – Claire Vincent (DAERA)
- Committee Member – Conor McKeown (Water Solutions Ireland)
- Committee Member – Glenn Mc Kay (AECOM)
- Committee Member – Kieran Madine (Jacopa)
- Committee Member – Kristopher Calder (RPS)
- Committee Member – Michelle McNally (DAERA)
- Committee Member – Paul Rocks (Jacopa)
- Committee Member – Sam Purdon (AECOM)

8. Installation of the 35th Chair of CIWEM Northern Ireland branch

Mr Robert Smith gave his incoming Chairs speech (Annex E).

9. Any other business

- CIWEM Dinner – potential date of 13th May 2022

CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

AGM Minutes recorded by: Louise Mc Namee (Atkins) 4th August 2021

Annex A: 2021 AGM Attendance List

No.	Name	Company
1	Daniel Hogan	ESB
2	Robert Smith	McAdam Design
3	Louise Mc Namee	Atkins
4	Michelle McNally	DAERA
5	Caoimhe Toner	Water Solutions Ireland
6	Sam Purdon	AECOM
7	Paul Rocks	Jacopa
8	Orla Crothers	NIW
9	Kieran Madine	Jacopa
10	Claire Vincent	DAERA
11	Colin Clements	-
12	Richard Bingham	RPS
13	Kenneth Milligan	-
14	Catherine Mc Quillan	-
15	Barbara Woods	CIWEM
16	Fergus Kerr	-
17	Denise Price	-

CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

Annex B: Branch Chair Report

Presented by Daniel Hogan at AGM on the 4th August 2021.

Chair's Report



Daniel J Hogan



Water and the Environment - Adapting to Change

- **Technical Talk 1 (Joint with Engineers Ireland)**

Climate Change Report for Belfast. Andy Gouldson (Leeds University) / John Barry (QUB).

- **Technical Talk 2 (CIWEM)**

Living with Water in Belfast. An Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management in Greater Belfast. Stuart Wightman and David Compston (Department for Infrastructure) supported by Richard Bingham

- **Technical Talk 3 (Joint with ICE)**

The Dublin City Centre Sewage Scheme. Martyn Harvie (Atkins Global)

- **Technical Talk 4 (Joint with Institute of Water)**

NI Waters Lough Fea Clear Water Basin Project. Mark McEvoy (RPS), Mark McIlveen (AECOM) and Mark Little (Graham)

- **Technical Talk 5 (Joint with the Association of Project Management).**

The Shared Waters Enhancement & Loughs Legacy (SWELL) Project. Martin Gillen (NI Water), Patrick Carty (Irish Water) and Adele Boyd (AFBI)

Water and the Environment - Adapting to Change

- **Technical Talk 6 (Joint with ROI Branch)**

Climate Change in Ireland – A Coastal Perspective. Kristopher Calder (RPS) / Jonathan Cooper (JBA Ireland)

- **New Members Paper Competition**

- Reservoir Abandonment or Discontinuation – A Sustainable Approach. Sarah McCord (AECOM)
- Developing a hydrological assessment Toolkit for NFM Techniques: A Case Study of Upper Garnick, Scotland. Matthew Buchanan (RPS).
- Investigating the role of Northern Ireland's Coastal Wetlands in a Changing Climate. Sam Purdon (AECOM)
- The Impact of COVID-19 on the Water Sector. Alistair Kenny (ATKINS Global).

Water and the Environment - Adapting to Change

- **Lunchtime Webinar Series**

- Ballater Flood Protection Study: Developing Options to mitigate flood risk at Ballater, Aberdeenshire. Zara Morgan (RPS).
- Peat Restoration in Ireland. Francis Mackin (RPS).
- Northern Ireland Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-2027. Warren Boal (AMEY Consulting).
- Evolution of Marine Wildlife Survey Design. Dr Kate Rogerson (APEM) supported by Randal Counihan and Stephanie McGovern.

Water and the Environment - Adapting to Change

- **The ones that got away!!**
 - Howard Fox Golf Outing
 - Annual Conference
 - Water Aid Golf Outing
 - CIWEM Recruitment & Membership Event
 - CIWEM Question of Knowledge Quiz
 - Stanton Cup Golf Outing
 - Annual Dinner

Water and the Environment - Adapting to Change

- Biggest Change of All



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Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

Annex C: Report from Honorary Treasurer 2020/2021

Presented by Caoimhe Toner at AGM on the 4th August 2021.

Hello all, I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the programme 2020 / 2021.

Firstly, please note that the Northern Ireland branch does not operate its own local bank account and all the financial transactions are subject to CIWEM Head Office auditing processes. A summary of the Income and Expenditure from this programme can be seen on the screen and the full financial breakdown has been circulated to the local committee members and CIWEM head office.

As we all know, the 20/21 programme has had to adapt to the circumstances surrounding Covid-19. I would like to offer a huge congratulations to the Committee who have made this year's programme run seamlessly in the face of the pandemic. This is my first year in the role of Treasurer since taking over from Robert Smith, our incoming Chair, who held the role for three years. It is safe to say the role of Treasurer this year has been dramatically different compared to previous years.

To summarise, there was no income generated for the 20/21 programme and an expenditure of (minus) - £774.34 was recorded which has resulted in a final balance of -£774.34.

Unfortunately, a number of events, which in previous years would have generated an income, were ultimately forced to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. These events included the Howard Fox Golf Outing, the Annual Conference which is normally held at Stormont, the Water Aid Golf Outing, our annual CIWEM Recruitment & Membership Event and also the annual CIWEM Question of Knowledge Quiz. The Annual Dinner, which had already been rescheduled during last year's programme, has now been rescheduled to May 2022. The Titanic Hotel has once again given assurances that the £2,525 deposit paid over two instalments will not be lost but will go towards the cost of the event next year.

At the start of the 20 / 21 programme, the decision was made by the Northern Ireland Branch Committee to hold off on issuing the CIWEM Programme Booklet due to the restrictions surrounding live events. In previous years, the generous contributions from our sponsors has generated a significant proportion of income to CIWEM NI funds.

The programme of events that were able to go ahead this year were the Technical Talks, of which there were six in total and also the lunchtime webinar presentations. These events were held online at zero cost to the NI branch. We were also able to host the New Members Paper Competition online at no cost. However, there was a total expense of £400 associated with this event in awarding cash prizes to the winner and the three runner-up contestants. The other expense of £300 associated with the 20 / 21 programme relates to the cash prizes awarded to the top performing students in both the MSc Environmental Engineering and the Meng in Civil and Environment Engineering. There were also miscellaneous branch expenses which have been submitted to CIWEM HQ for approval and reimbursement.

I would like to thank our Chair Daniel Hogan, our Secretary Louise McNamee, and our Branch Coordinator Barbara Woods for helping throughout the year and making this another successful and enjoyable programme. I would also like to wish the best of luck to the incoming chair Robert Smith on this year's upcoming programme. This concludes my Treasurers Report for the 2020 2021 programme, thank you all for listening.

Caoimhe Toner
CIWEM NI Branch Hon Treasurer

CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

Annex D:

Report from Honorary Secretary 2020/2021 Presented by Louise Mc Namee at AGM on the 4th August 2021

To begin I would like to pay tribute to Daniel Hogan our 2020/2021 chairperson.

Taking over as chair in a year where it was extremely difficult to forward plan was no mean task. As a committee we didn't really know what way things were going to work out however Daniel threw himself into the online events and poured his efforts into making them a success.

We have been delighted with the response to our online events and although going 100% virtual seemed daunting at the beginning of the year it has allowed the our branch to reach a wider audience and we are taking that as a huge positive. The technical programme based around Daniel's theme of "Water and Environment, Adapting to Change" proved very informative and topical for the year that was in it. The attendance at these online technical events and lunchtime talks were excellent. With that said we look forward hosting our 'in person' events when we can do so safely in the near future.

Well done again Daniel on a very successful year as chairperson and many thanks for your support throughout my second year as honorary secretary. I also wish to thank this year's treasurer Caoimhe Toner for her work throughout the year and her continued commitment to CIWEM.

A special word of thanks to all the speakers and the various professional institutions for their time and input to CIWEM NI and to all who championed the technical talks or events throughout the 20/21 calendar.

I am pleased to say that the CIWEM NI Branch has had a successful year. Since last year's AGM the branch membership has increased to 331 members which is an increase of 9 members since July 2020. This growth can be attributed to the hard work of our committee and also our branch members who are actively encouraging colleagues and friends to attend our technical talks and seek chartership through CIWEM.

Many thanks to Barbara and her team at CIWEM headquarters for the huge effort in making our virtual calendar what it was this year.

Finally, I would like to conclude my report by wishing Robert Smith all the best in his year as the 35th Chair of CIWEM NI. I look forward to working with you over the coming year. I have worked with Rob when he was treasurer of the branch and have been in recent calls with him about the year ahead and it looks like it is set to be a great one already.

Once again, a sincere thanks to everyone for your continued support for the CIWEM NI Branch and I look forward to the year ahead.

Louise Mc Namee
CIWEM NI Honorary Secretary

CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

Annex E: Incoming Chair's Speech

Presented by Robert Smith at AGM on the 4th August 2021

I would like to begin by saying how honoured I am to be taking up the role of Chairman of CIWEM Northern Ireland. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our outgoing Chairman Daniel Hogan on doing such a fantastic job in very difficult circumstances over the last year. His theme 'Adapting to Change' turned out to be very appropriate and I think we can all honestly say no other Chairman has had to adapt a programme just quite as much, but he did it in his naturally effortless style so well done Daniel, you deserve a lot of credit and thank you for all your help and advice to me personally.

The hard work and support of the people on our committee and those at CIWEM head office is central to the success of CIWEM NI branch, so thank you to all the committee members and Barbara Woods and her team for their hard work over the last year. In particular, I would like to thank and acknowledge the following:

- Louise McNamee has been instrumental in the success of CIWEM over the last couple of years having taken over as branch Secretary in 2018. She does a lot of work behind the scenes and I am thankful she has agreed to stay on in this role.
- Caoimhe Toner took over the important role of branch Treasurer last year and has shown an affinity for managing money which maybe comes from the contractor in her and I am glad she is continuing in this role for another year as well.
- I would also like to congratulate Orla Crothers in her appointment to Senior Vice Chair and Andrew Harte on his appointment to Junior Vice Chair. Orla and Andy have both been on the committee a number of years now and have both been involved in organising various events so its great to see their efforts recognised.

I would also like to thank all those who have helped me personally over the last few years and especially in the last six months, I wouldn't have been able to pull together this programme without a lot of help and guidance from a lot of people so thank you all.

For those that don't know me, my name is Robert Smith, I am married with 2 young boys and I'm an Associate Civil Engineer at McAdam.

My journey to CIWEM probably started when I graduated from Queens in 2005 with a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering and I got an interview with a local consultancy in Newtownards called McAdam Design where, coincidentally, I was interviewed by someone who had just completed his year serving as Chairman of CIWEM, the late Reynold Anthony. We talked about civil engineering, football, my course Queens and a bit more about football and in late 2005 I was offered my first job in the world of Civil Engineering.

My early career saw me working as a structural designer designing big reinforced concrete tanks and steel frame on projects such as NI Waters Alpha Project upgrading the Castor Bay and Ballinress Water Treatment Works. After a couple of years as structural designer I moved on to a Project Management role looking after another NIW project called the Rural Wastewater Investment Programme which is aimed at upgrading small wastewater treatment works around rural Northern Ireland and this gave me my first real insight into the importance of environmental management and how it links into civil engineering. In 2011 we won the Green Apple Environmental award at the house of commons and this award still sits pride of place in McAdam reception.

Working for a consultancy who does a lot of work for NI Water it is difficult not to be exposed to issues regarding water and the environment and around 2011 I started attending CIWEM events which I found really useful in building up my CPD and helped me get my chartered engineering qualification with the ICE in 2012. I must say another past chairman, Fergus Kerr who many will know is a director in McAdam, has been influential in my involvement with CIWEM and has been a great source of support. I kept attending the CIWEM technical meetings as found them interesting and provided an opportunity to learn about new things that you might not get to see or hear about in the normal day to day work.

CIWEM Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting 2021

Wednesday, 4th August 2021 | 15:00

Via Zoom Call

It was also a good way to meet new people, have a bit of fun and sometimes even get a free dinner. In 2014 I joined the CIWEM committee and in 2016 I become a Chartered Water and Environment Manager through CIWEM. In 2017 I was asked if I would take over as CIWEM Treasurer which I served for 3 years and then last year moved on to take up a new role as Senior Vice Chair.

There are many brilliant things I could say about CIWEM. From the interesting and informative technical meetings, fun social events, professional qualification support but I think the best aspect of CIWEM is the new people you get the opportunity to meet.

The members of CIWEM come from a lot of different backgrounds. In the committee alone we have scientists, environmental consultants, civil engineers, mechanical engineers, project managers and modellers to name a few so its probably quite unique in that respect to have such a wide range of disciplines in the one institute all coming together and working towards a common goal of a safer, more sustainable world.

That brings me onto my theme for the following year of events which is "Working Smarter for a more sustainable tomorrow". So what does that mean? To me I wanted to look at new ways of doing things, to learn from people at the cutting edge in the industry who are doing things a little bit differently. I tried to shape my programme around this, getting talks from people who are taking chances and doing things not just because that's the way they've always been done but seeking out new technology and how that can drive better and more efficient ways of work with the ultimate goal of helping improve our environment. In the upcoming programme we have talks on

- The NIEA River Basin Management Plan
- Integrated Environmental Modelling
- the A4 Enniskillen bypass project
- the Department of Economys new energy strategy and NIWaters hydrogen project,
- an update on the NIWaters Living with water project and
- the use of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning to name a few

These events will mainly be online, partly due to the ongoing pandemic, but also we have seen that holding events online allows for greater exposure with more people able to attend and the events can also go onto the CIWEM YouTube channel for even more coverage. But I do hope that some live events will be able to return eventually and where we can do so we will and we already have made small steps in bringing back the golfing events and hope next year well be able to bring back our Annual Dinner.

My main aims for the following year are to grow our membership by delivering a programme that people will find interesting and fun and will want to come to and also providing professional support for those who want to become chartered.

We are always looking for ways to improve the branch and would welcome any ideas from our members. If anyone can think of any way we can improve, please feel free to contact me or any of the committee.

Our first technical talk will be on the NIEA Draft River Basin Management Plan presented online by Silke Hartman & Mary Toland both from DAERA and will be held on 1st September. Details will be posted on the website and social media soon. With that being said thank you all for listening, I look forward to seeing you all over the course of the next year and feel free to give me a call or drop me an email with any questions, suggestions or ideas.

Robert Smith

CIWEM NI Branch Chair 2020/2021