

# 75<sup>th</sup> AGM Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday 7 September 2021  
**Time:** 12:15 – 1:00pm  
**Meeting Number:** 75  
**Location:** Go To Webinar (online meeting)  
**Attendees:** Bruce Lascelles (Chair) Sarah Garry (Executive Officer)

90 delegates attended the meeting including four non-members (office staff and nominated trustees) who were not entitled to vote.

	Agenda Item
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting and noted that seven proxy forms would be in use for the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 8 October 2020 and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2020 had been circulated. Further to a proposal from Bruce Lascelles, which was seconded by Daniel Baird, the minutes of the meeting were approved by members.</p>
3.	<p><b>Executive Officer's Report</b></p> <p>The Executive Officer's presented a brief presentation to the meeting which highlighted the Society's successes over the past year. This included the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council spending time updating its governance processes</li> <li>• Society being increasingly seen as a key organisation to engage with on soil policy</li> <li>• new website, awareness-raising video #Grounded, and the launch of a successful Zoom into Soil series and various guidance documents</li> <li>• increase in Impact Factors for both the European Journal of Soil Science (4.949) and Soil Use and Management (2.95)</li> <li>• increase in membership numbers from approximately 700 in January 2021 to 802 at the end of August 2021, with more membership applications received by the end of June 2021 than in the whole of 2020</li> <li>• Society being accepted as an Observer Organisation for COP 26, providing the Society with the opportunity to influence on an international stage.</li> </ul> <p>Sarah ended by thanking all the Society's volunteers who had provided their input, support and guidance over the past 12 months.</p>
4.	<p><b>President's Report</b></p>

	<p>The Chair provided a verbal report on the work which the Society had delivered over the last year and thanked the office staff for their support in delivering the activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work had been taking place to deliver the World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow from 31 July – 5 August 2022 and the Chair highlighted the challenges that there had been with regard to Covid planning</li> <li>• Abstract submission for the Congress had launched and plans for an ambitious arts programme were starting to take shape</li> <li>• Members interested in volunteering for the variety of roles available at the Congress were asked to contact the office directly.</li> </ul> <p>In the coming weeks, Board would be meeting to discuss the Society's 2020 – 2025 strategy and agree its long-term vision and what would be achievable, particularly with the Congress next year.</p>
<i>Secretary's Note</i>	<i>To find out more about World Congress volunteering opportunities please contact <a href="mailto:wcss22@soils.org.uk">wcss22@soils.org.uk</a></i>
5.	<p><b>Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020</b></p> <p>The Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020 had been distributed and showed a small surplus of £5,243 which the Chair noted was incredibly positive considering the backdrop of Covid-19. Further to a proposal by the Chair, which was seconded by Audrey Litterick, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution to approve the accounts.</p>
6.	<p><b>Appointment of Auditors for the Ensuing Year</b></p> <p>The Chair proposed that HSA &amp; Co. were reappointed as the Society's auditors. This was seconded by Jack Hannam and members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution to appoint the auditors.</p>
7.	<p><b>Special Resolution to Update the Society Memorandum and Articles of Association</b></p> <p>As the Society had been unable to gather a quorum for its scheduled AGM on 3 September 2020, the Society Board had proposed to members a number of changes to the Society Memorandum and Articles of Association. These changes were removal of reference to the merger between the Society and the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists, which took place over ten years ago, greater clarity around the trustees' terms on Board and a reduction in the number of members required for a quorum, from 10% to 5%. The proposed changes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove points 3.1, 3.2, 12.2 and 12.3 which referred to the merger between IPSS and the British Society of Soil Science</li> <li>• Remove points 22.2 and 22.3 and update 22.4 which related to the retirement of Trustees. The Trustee terms would be set out in the updated Society Bye-Laws</li> <li>• Points 32 and 38.2.4 updated from one tenth of membership to 5% of membership to make a quorum.</li> </ul> <p>Further to a query from Hannah Bowley, it was confirmed that as the merger was more than ten years ago, the role that the Society had been given (to take over the assets and liabilities of the IPSS) had been completed and the wording was no longer required.</p>

	The Society Board had recommended that members vote in favour of the special resolution and further to a proposal from Bruce Lascelles, which was seconded by Isobel Lloyd, 90% of members on voted in favour of the special resolution with 10% abstaining and the resolution was passed.												
8.	<p><b>Special Resolution to Update the Society Bye-Laws</b></p> <p>It had been several years since the Society Bye-Laws had been updated and the document did not reflect how the Society Board and Council had agreed to work in practice. The proposed changes spanned all sections of the document and the Society Board had recommended that members voted in favour of the special resolution.</p> <p>Further to a proposal from Bruce Lascelles, which was seconded by Kevin Stott, 92% of members voted in favour of the special resolution with 8% abstaining and the resolution was passed.</p>												
9.	<p><b>Election of Board and Council Members 2022</b></p> <p>Board members Anna Becvar and David Hopkins, Treasurer and Governance Trustees respectively, were both stepping down after six years each as Society Trustees. The Chair thanked both Anna and David for their ongoing support of, and service to, the Society.</p>												
a)	<p><b>Treasurer Trustee</b></p> <p>Board had nominated Anirban Sarkar as the new Treasurer Trustee candidate and further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Kirsty Elliott, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Anirban's election.</p>												
b)	<p><b>Governance Trustee</b></p> <p>Board had nominated Brian Westbury as the new Governance Trustee candidate and further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Jim Harris, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Brian's election.</p>												
c)	<p><b>Confirmation of Trustees</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that the 2022 Society Board would be as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>President</td><td>Bruce Lascelles</td></tr> <tr> <td>Past President</td><td>Sacha Mooney</td></tr> <tr> <td>President Elect</td><td>Jack Hannam</td></tr> <tr> <td>Governance Trustee</td><td>Brian Westbury</td></tr> <tr> <td>PPC Trustee</td><td>Tom Aspray</td></tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer Trustee</td><td>Anirban Sarkar</td></tr> </table>	President	Bruce Lascelles	Past President	Sacha Mooney	President Elect	Jack Hannam	Governance Trustee	Brian Westbury	PPC Trustee	Tom Aspray	Treasurer Trustee	Anirban Sarkar
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d)	<p><b>Early Careers Chair</b></p> <p>Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Dan Evans, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Kirsty Elliott as Chair of the Early Careers Committee.</p>																				
e)	<p><b>Education Committee Chair</b></p> <p>Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Willie Towers, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Lois Phillips as Chair of the Education Committee.</p>																				
f)	<p><b>Grants and Awards Committee Chair</b></p> <p>Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Dan Wardak, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Sacha Mooney as Chair of the Grants and Awards Committee.</p>																				
g)	<p><b>Midlands Soil Discussion Group Chair</b></p> <p>Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Kevin Stott, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Iain Gould as Chair of the Midlands Soil Discussion Group.</p>																				
h)	<p><b>Ordinary Council Member</b></p> <p>Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Rupert Goddard, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Mark Nason as Ordinary Council Member.</p>																				
i)	<p><b>Confirmation of Council Members</b></p> <p>Members noted that members of the 2021 Council would be the President, President Elect and Immediate Past President plus:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>EJSS Editor</td><td>Jenni Dungait (ex officio)</td></tr> <tr> <td>SUM Editor</td><td>Deyi Hou (ex officio)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Executive Officer</td><td>Sarah Garry (ex officio)</td></tr> <tr> <td>PPC Chair</td><td>Mike Palmer</td></tr> <tr> <td>Education Committee</td><td>Lois Phillips</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grants &amp; Awards Committee</td><td>Sacha Mooney</td></tr> <tr> <td>WCSS Working Group</td><td>Bruce Lascelles (also a Trustee)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Early Career Representative</td><td>Kirsty Elliott</td></tr> <tr> <td>Midlands Soil Discussion Group</td><td>Iain Gould</td></tr> <tr> <td>Northern Soils Network</td><td>Manoj Menon</td></tr> </table>	EJSS Editor	Jenni Dungait (ex officio)	SUM Editor	Deyi Hou (ex officio)	Executive Officer	Sarah Garry (ex officio)	PPC Chair	Mike Palmer	Education Committee	Lois Phillips	Grants & Awards Committee	Sacha Mooney	WCSS Working Group	Bruce Lascelles (also a Trustee)	Early Career Representative	Kirsty Elliott	Midlands Soil Discussion Group	Iain Gould	Northern Soils Network	Manoj Menon
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	South East England Regional Group	Leila Froud (interim)
	South West Soils Discussion Group	Lynda Deeks
	Scottish Regional Group	Sarah Buckingham
	Welsh Soil Discussion Group	vacant
	Ordinary Council Member	Robert Cochrane
	Ordinary Council Member	Xavier Portell
	Ordinary Council Member	Mark Nason
10.	<b>Honorary Membership</b>  Members could choose to make an Honorary Member of any person who had been a full member of the Society for the preceding 10 years and had made an exceptional contribution to the objects of the Society. Members had received a paper which set out Keith Goulding and Margaret Oliver's achievements in the field of soil science and their support of the aims of the Society.  Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Dick Thompson, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Keith Goulding's Honorary membership.  Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Anna Becvar, members voted in favour of the ordinary resolution and Margaret Oliver's Honorary membership.	
9.	<b>Any Other Business</b>  There was no other business brought by members and the Chair closed the AGM.	

### **Future Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting 2022 will take place during the World Congress of Soil Science at the SEC, Glasgow (31 July – 5 August 2022)

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