

**Minutes of the
BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF ASLE-UKI
Thursday 5 September 2019
University of Plymouth**

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed members to the meeting and thank them for attending. He introduced himself explaining the role of the Chair of ASLE-UKI, its relationship with the conference, and also informed members of a change of title from “Chair” to “President” of the Association. He introduced the purpose of the BGM, explaining that a change to the constitution had been agreed by the Executive Committee of ASLE-UKI which meant that general membership meetings would now take place every two years rather than every year. He also explained that another change to the constitution meant that future changes would require the membership to approve them. The president then went through the agenda, set out in the constitution for all BGMs.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes from the AGM held at the ASLE-UKI conference in Sheffield were scrutinized and it was agreed that all issues arising could be dealt with under the existing agenda items. It was explained that the general meeting held at the ASLE-UKI Postgraduate conference in Kirkwall on the island of Orkney was not quorate but that notes from that meeting were available on request from the secretary. They had been circulated by email after the conference.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from members of the Executive Committee unable to attend: Hugh Dunkerley, David Borthwick, Lucy Collins, Michelle Poland, Vera Fibisan, Rebecca Ford.

4. President’s report from the Executive Committee

The president explained that business during the year had been carried out by email, including the annual Hay festival competition, the revision of the constitution, conference liaison, and *Green Letters* matters. The two main activities of the association were the journal and the conference.

The president thanked Mandy Bloomfield and her team at the University of Plymouth for their work in putting together this year’s conference. Mandy reported that the conference was the ASLE-UKI’s biggest to date with the most papers and delegates. The conference continued the trend away from a purely scholarly focus, including creating writing as research as well as other media.

5. Treasurer's Report

Brycchan Carey gave an interim report on the finances of the association in the absence of the treasurer who would be submitting a full report in due course. The current account contains £1294.49. There was some discussion about the association's commitments to expenditures, including two student bursaries of £180 and a publisher's fee of £3473.25. The payment of membership fees through paypal was working well but there was a difficulty in transferring access as members of the committee came and went. It was understood that there was around £2000 in the paypal account but this needed to be confirmed.

There was some discussion on the management of the membership database, on sources of income and sponsorship.

6. *Green Letters*

John Parham reported on the work of the editorial team consisting of himself, Samantha Walton, the reviews editor Sue Edney and the new editorial assistants Abby and Michelle Parry. He said the journal was overflowing with content. Many unsolicited manuscripts were received although there were not so many from ASLE-UKI members. Themed issues on Floods, Farming and Petrofictions had been produced and a new one on Dinosaurs was planned. production of four issues a year, some of which were double issues. He explained that downloads were increasing rapidly. The contract with Routledge had been rolled over and the board were hopeful of improving the contract. **Action point: he asked members to contact him with information about journal contracts that might be helpful to this process.**

Sue Edney reported that she had a backlog of books for review. **Action point: the secretary agreed to email the list of books available to members.** Sue also asked members with reviews outstanding to send them in, no matter how late.

Abi reported on a discussion to create a new platform online for creating writing and art which would be a sister site to *Green Letters*. There was some discussion about the implications of this idea around the status of different activities such a creative writing, reviews of creative writing, and other forms of non-academic writing such as blogs. Several points were made by members on the need for such a site to serve a purpose for writers and the need for careful curating. **Action point: it was agreed to take the discussion further in the next executive committee meeting, linking it with the development of the Association website and various roles on the committee.**

7. Membership fees

Current annual membership fees are £40 for waged and £20 for unwaged members. There was a discussion about the proposal to raise the fees to £50 for waged and £25 for unwaged members. The discussion included the need for a full report on the association's accounts, the need to support outreach, expenses and postgraduate students. It was unanimously agreed to raise the fees as proposed. **Action point: the treasurer and website officer to update the website to this effect.**

8. Election of Executive Committee

The president explained that the Vice-President would take over on conclusion of the meeting in accordance with the constitution. He explained that he himself would become Vice-President. All members of the committee would continue **except for the role of secretary which would be taken on by Rosie Paice. At the meeting two new members at large were also elected unopposed: Mandy Bloomfield and Sam Solnick.**

The current committee is hence:

President: John Miller

Vice President: Brycchan Carey

Secretary: Rosamund Paice

Membership Secretary: Todd Borlik

Treasurer: Hugh Dunkerley

Website officer: not filled

Members 'at-large': Mandy Bloomfield, Sam Solnick

PG officers: Rebecca Ford and Vera Fibisan

GL editors: John Parham and Samantha Walton

Outreach officer: Richard Kerridge

9. Future activities

a. 2020 P/G conference

Will take place 2 – 4 September on the theme “Out of the Blue: blurred ecologies, blue meets green” at the University of Sheffield. **Action point: the Call for Papers would be circulated to members.**

b. 2021 General conference

Will take place 1 – 3 September on the theme of “Time and Histories” at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

10. Date of next meeting

The next Biennial General Meeting will be 2 September 2021

11. AOB

There was no further business.