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| Meeting Date: | Wednesday 17 July 2024 |
| Time: | 4:30pm – 5:30pm |
| Meeting Number: | 78 |
| Location: | Crowne Plaza Hotel Sheffield and Online via GoTo Webinar |
| Attendees: | Jack Hannam (Chair) Andy Morris (Executive Officer) |

28 delegates attended the meeting including two non-members (office staff). Voting on the resolutions took place in advance of the meeting and 42 member votes across all categories were received, which equalled 5% of the total membership at the time of voting, and this met the requirements for quorum in line with the Society's bye-laws. From the votes received, the majority of responders were in favour of supporting all resolutions, therefore, all resolutions were subsequently approved.

| | Agenda Item |
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| 1. | <p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the 78th Annual General Meeting, which was taking place during the Natural England Soil Health Conference.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Approval of Ordinary Resolution: Minutes of the AGM held on 5 July 2023</p> <p>Members had been asked to vote on the resolution in advance of the meeting. 86% of responders were in favour of accepting the minutes of the 77th AGM held on 5 July 2023, and 14% of responders abstained from the vote. Therefore, the minutes were approved.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Annual Report 2023</p> <p>The Society had published its Annual Report 2023 and this was distributed with the meeting papers. The President began by providing the Board's overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Tompkins joined Board as the Professional, Practice and Development Committee Trustee in January this year. His election to board was ratified at an Extraordinary General Meeting which was held alongside the 2023 Annual Conference in December 2023 |

- Last year, the society had record membership numbers, reaching 937 total members.
- The Society had a growing income year-on-year and were continuing to work on new income and revenue streams to ensure the sustainable future of the Society.
- The Society delivered 2 successful conferences (Annual and Early Careers Conferences) at the end of the year in Belfast with over 200 attendees across both events.
- A new mission and vision was developed to align with the Society's strategy.

The chair continued to provide an overview of the Society's main operational achievements for 2023 as highlighted in the Annual Report. The following encapsulates the highlights from 2023:

- A new mission and vision was developed to align with the Society's strategy. The Society's mission is to support and promote the discovery of new knowledge of soils and their role in global sustainability. The Society's vision is to ensure sustainable soils for people and planet.
- The mission and vision was established to align with the Society's 7 point strategy which includes:
 - Seeking to publicize the key issues for the soil science community
 - Promoting change through knowledge exchange
 - Hosting conferences and meetings focused on soils
 - Supporting and encouraging the education of soil science
 - Inspiring the future generations of soil scientists
 - Ensuring high standards of professional practice
 - Leading on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society
- Using the 7-point strategy the Society aimed to achieve its mission and vision by raising the profile of the important soil issues via the two prestigious journals, European Journal of Soil Science (EJSS) and Soil Use & Management (SUM), our members e-newsletters, our website, an enhanced social media presence and by hosting regional, national and international conferences. The Society actively engaged with the media by responding quickly to enquiries, providing factsheets and policy notes ensuring we are acknowledged as the UK's leading authority on soil science. The Society also publicised key issues to the UK Government via the Parliamentary Inquiry into Soil Health, and by joining the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Commons Select Committee in March 2023 to highlight the importance of soil.
- The Society sought to support knowledge exchange in soil science through targeted engagement with industry, policy makers, government and educators. We did this by co-hosting a policy dialogue session with the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) and the International "4 per 1000" initiative. The session

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focused on soil as an unsung hero, which can help international governments meet their mitigation and offset targets, but which does not share the same legal protections as air and water.

- The Society held two conferences focused on soils in 2023: The BSSS and SSSI Annual Conference, and The Early Career's Conference both held in Belfast. The Annual Conference was themed around soil monitoring and management, and we had five keynote presentations that delved into this in more detail and provided delegates with the latest developments. These conferences were the first face-to-face conferences since COVID.
- To support and encourage the education of soil science, the Society introduced the loan box scheme, which aims to further educate young people, families, and the general public on the importance of soils and to encourage further learning and engagement. The boxes contain the resources needed to carry out a number of fun, educational soil-related activities suitable for both children and adults. The boxes have been used in schools, groups and communities in various parts of the country.
- The Society continued to inspire future generations of soil scientists by supporting the development of early career members working in soil science. We held our biannual Early Careers Conference, after our Annual Conference, in December. The two-day programme allowed a wide range of 100 Early Career members from academia, industry, and policy to come together for a variety of themed sessions, including keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations, three workshops, and a social dinner.
- The Society is dedicated to ensuring high standards of professional practice by providing training courses such as our Working with Soils series, assisting with maintaining Chartered Scientist registration, and developing the Level 7 Soil Scientist (Master's Level) apprenticeship. This was recently developed by our Employer Group which helps to provide a clear career pathway for the future generation of soil scientists.
- The Society continued to lead on the social and environmental responsibilities of a contemporary society by providing leadership in areas concerning the socio-economic responsibilities of a modern Society. The Society aims to ensure all members have equality of opportunity, irrespective of age, race, disability, sex, religion or other protected characteristics. This was encapsulated in our organisation and delivery of the World Congress of Soil Science in 2022, in which we were delighted to receive awards for last year. This included:
 - Gold Sustainable Initiative Award at the M&IT Magazine Awards
 - Best Business Event at the 2023 Scottish Thistle Awards
 - Best Environmental, Social and Governance Event at the 2023 ICE Awards (UK and Germany)

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| | <p>Andy Morris, The Executive Director, provided an overview of the Society’s year in numbers, which had some key figures that showed the impact the society had in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven Zoom into Soil Webinars were delivered in 2023 with a total of 787 people in attendance, and over 7400 views online. • Throughout 2023, the Society had delivered 80 training hours through the Working with Soil courses. The training was delivered to 102 delegates. • 27 email updates were sent to members and stakeholders. • At the end of 2023, the Society had 42 Chartered Scientists • 4 members were awarded Fellowships for their professional experience and responsibility within their professions • We had a 93% increase in our engagement across all our social media channels • Membership had increased by 6% from the previous year, and we represented 937 members at the end of 2023 which was the highest number of members in the Society’s history. This included 172 new members and 5 new corporate members. <p>The chair extended her thanks to all the members, volunteers, committees, and the executive team for all their hard work and dedication to the society without whom it would not have been possible to deliver the level of activities in 2023.</p> <p>Another item for any other business was to thank the Society’s former Executive Officer, Sarah Garry, and Operations and Business Development Manager, Natalie Coles, for their hard work over the last 3 years, and to also welcome the new Executive Director, Andy Morris, who we are delighted to have onboard.</p> |
| <p><i>Secretary’s Note</i></p> | <p><i>The Annual Report from the British Society of Soil Science is available via the website: <u>BSSS Annual Report 2023</u></i></p> |
| <p>4.</p> | <p>Approval of Ordinary Resolution: Trustees’ Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023</p> <p>Members had been asked to vote on the resolution in advance of the meeting. 90% of responders voted in favour of the report and accounts being accepted while 10% abstained from the vote. The resolution was duly passed and the Chair thanked Anirban, the Society’s Finance Trustee, the executive team and accountants for preparing the document.</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Approval of Ordinary Resolution: To approve the reappointment of the accountants for the ensuing year – HB Accountants</p> |

| | <p>Members had been asked to vote on the resolution in advance of the meeting. 93% of responders voted in favour of having HB Accountants reappointed as the Society's accountants for the ensuing year, while 7% abstained from the vote. The reappointment of HB Accountants as the Society's accountants was therefore approved.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 6. | <p>Approval of Ordinary Resolution: To approve the appointment of Dr Lizzie Sagoo as President Elect</p> <p>Members had been asked to vote on the resolution in advance of the meeting. 98% of responders voted in favour of the resolution to appoint Dr Lizzie Sagoo as President Elect, with 2% abstentions. The resolution was passed and the appointment was confirmed.</p> <p>Dr Lizzie Sagoo has been a member of the Society for 15 years and is an active member of the Outreach and Grants & Awards Committees. Dr Lizzie Sagoo will begin her post as President Elect in January 2025, and will take over from Paul Hallett, who will become President for the years 2025 to 2026.</p> <p>Dr Lizzie Sagoo delivered a short speech, detailing her ambitions as president and was thankful for her appointment as upcoming President Elect.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Secretary's Note</i> | <p><i>Please see the link below for Dr Lizzie's Sagoo President Elect speech broadcast at the 78TH AGM Lizzie Sagoo - President-Elect video (youtube.com)</i></p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | <p>Board and Council Members 2024</p> <p>2024/2025 Board and Council members would be:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2024 Board</th> <th>2025 Board</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Jack Hannam</td> <td>Paul Hallett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Past President</td> <td>Bruce Lascelles</td> <td>Jack Hannam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>President Elect</td> <td>Paul Hallett</td> <td>Lizzie Sagoo</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marketing, Communications and Policymaking Trustee</td> <td>Dan Lambeth</td> <td>Dan Lambeth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PPDC Trustee</td> <td>David Tompkins</td> <td>David Tompkins</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | 2024 Board | 2025 Board | President | Jack Hannam | Paul Hallett | Past President | Bruce Lascelles | Jack Hannam | President Elect | Paul Hallett | Lizzie Sagoo | Marketing, Communications and Policymaking Trustee | Dan Lambeth | Dan Lambeth | PPDC Trustee | David Tompkins | David Tompkins |
| | 2024 Board | 2025 Board | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| President | Jack Hannam | Paul Hallett | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Past President | Bruce Lascelles | Jack Hannam | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| President Elect | Paul Hallett | Lizzie Sagoo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marketing, Communications and Policymaking Trustee | Dan Lambeth | Dan Lambeth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PPDC Trustee | David Tompkins | David Tompkins | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Finance Trustee | Anirban Sarkar | Anirban Sarkar |
| Digital Communications Trustee | TBC | TBC |
| | 2024 Council | |
| Presidential Team | Jack Hannam Bruce Lascelles Paul Hallett | |
| EJSS Editor | Jenni Dungait (ex officio) | |
| SUM Editor | Deyi Hou (ex officio) | |
| Executive Officer | Andrew Morris (ex officio) | |
| PPDC Chair | Eleanor Reed | |
| Education Committee | Lois Phillipps | |
| Grants & Awards Committee | Bruce Lascelles | |
| Early Career Representative | Dannielle Roche | |
| Midlands Soil Discussion Group | Iain Gould | |
| Northern Soils Network | Chris Cattle | |
| South East England Regional Group | Marcelo Galdos (co-opted) | |
| South West Soils Discussion Group | Lynda Deeks | |
| Scottish Regional Group | Nikki Baggaley (co-opted) | |
| Welsh Soil Discussion Group | Kara Marsden | |
| Ordinary Council Member | Ashish Malik | |
| Ordinary Council Member | Mark Nason | |

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Any Other Business and Questions

Members had been asked to submit items of other business in advance of the meeting. One of our matters arising was around the mission and vision which was discussed and addressed with the Board on 16 July 2024.

The remaining item of any other business was recognising the dedication and hard work from the former Executive Officer, Sarah Garry, and Operations and Business Development Manager, Natalie Coles, for their hard work over the last 3 years. The Society was thankful for their support over the years and wished them well on their individual journeys.

Attendees at the meeting both in person and online had the opportunity to ask questions. One question was posed around lunar soils and soils from other planets that future generations may explore, and whether this should be included in the missions and vision. The Chair acknowledged the question and confirmed that whilst it was unlikely to feature in the main mission and vision, it was still of interest and was encapsulated in the broader mission statements in terms of research, and that it would be discussed further internally.

There being no further business discussed, the Chair closed the meeting.