

ERCS Virtual AGM September 2022

Minutes of the virtual second AGM (draft)

Held on Wednesday 28 September 2022, 5- 7.30pm

Present (online via zoom)

Trustees: Lloyd Austin - Chair, Julie Christie - Treasurer, Mary Church, Jackie Erdman, Campbell Gemmell, Juliet Harris, Aedán Smith, Clare Symonds

Ordinary members: there were 15 ordinary members (including Associates) and 8 trustees

Apologies: Deborah Long – Vice-chair, Associates: Hannah Darnell, Alison McNab, Elisa Morgera

Staff: Shivali Fifiield, Ben Christman, Emma Donaldson, Benji Brown, Cornell Hanxomphou, Preslava Todorova

AGM Business (5 - 5.45pm)

1. Chair's welcome

Lloyd welcomed everyone to the second AGM of the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

Lloyd introduced the trustees and staff and thanked them for another very productive year.

2. Approval of minutes 21 September 2021

The minutes for the virtual first AGM held on 21 September 2021 (paper 1) were approved with no amendments.



3. Annual report & financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2021

- Chair's Report

Lloyd noted the main achievements of the year which are detailed in the Trustees' Report accompanying the financial statements. He mentioned that there would be an opportunity to ask questions on ERCS's work following the presentation given by Shivali, the Chief Officer. The last hour, following the main AGM business, would be an opportunity to discuss ERCS's future priorities in more depth.

- Consideration of the annual accounts

Julie gave a summary of the audited accounts as outlined in paper 2 and asked if any members had any questions on the accounts. There were no questions.

Julie advised the meeting that the accounts would be approved by the Board directly following the AGM.

The approved accounts will be sent to the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and will also be available on ERCS's website.

4. Presentation on ERCS's work during this period

Shivali gave a presentation on ERCS's activities during the reporting period, key achievements and strategic objectives moving forward. Lloyd thanked the staff team for their work and asked if there were any questions from members. There were no questions.

5. Election of trustees

Lloyd introduced paper 5 which gives the register of trustees and schedule of retirement; and ERCS's Constitution clauses on election, appointment, retiral and re-election.

- Scottish Environment LINK's nominated trustees

Scottish Environment LINK's Governance Group have nominated Deborah Long and Aedán Smith to continue to be their representatives on the ERCS Board.



- Resolution for the re-election of trustees

In accordance with the Constitution (clauses 71-76) one third of the trustees (the longest in office since last elected) will retire from office but are eligible for re-election. This is Campbell Gemmell, Juliet Harris, Jackie Erdman. All three confirmed they would like to stand for re-election and paper 4 gives a short biography and personal statement from each of them.

Members were asked to raise their hands via the zoom chat function and the Resolution to re-elect Campbell Gemmell, Juliet Harris and Jackie Erdman was passed unanimously.

The appointment of office bearers will be decided at the Board meeting directly following the AGM.

There being no further business, the business part of the Annual General Meeting closed at 5.40pm.

ERCS's future priorities workshop (6.15 – 7.30pm)

There was a 30-minute break followed by three group breakout sessions on each of ERCS's work programmes: Rights awareness, Advice and Advocacy.

Each member of staff gave a summary of key achievements this year followed by a discussion centred on the following questions to inform the development of ERCS's strategic plan 2023-26:

- What do you think we have done well so far?
- What are the opportunities we should focus on in the next three years?
- What are the challenges we need to tackle?
- How will we know we have achieved our priorities?

A summary of each discussion was given at the end to the whole group.

Lloyd ended the meeting by thanking everyone again.