

ERCS Virtual AGM September 2021

Minutes of the virtual first AGM

Held on Tuesday 21 September 2021 3.30 – 5pm, online via zoom

Present

Trustees: Lloyd Austin - Chair, Deborah Long – Vice-chair, Julie Christie - Treasurer, Mary Church, Jackie Erdman, Campbell Gemmell, Juliet Harris, Aedán Smith, Clare Symonds.

Ordinary members: there were 14 ordinary members.

Staff: Shivali Fifield, Ben Christman, Emma Donaldson, Emilia Hanna, Kirsten Walker (student)

Part 1 AGM Business (3:30pm - 4pm)

1. Chair's welcome

Lloyd Austin welcomed everyone to the first AGM of the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland and confirmed that the meeting was quorate (8). There were no apologies. Lloyd Austin introduced the trustees and staff and thanked them for a very productive year. As this was the first AGM, there were no previous minutes to approve.

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

- Chair's Report

Lloyd Austin outlined the main achievements of the year which are detailed in the Trustees' Report accompanying the financial statements.

- Consideration of the annual accounts

Julie Christie gave a summary of the audited accounts as outlined in paper 1.

Colin Clark asked a question on who our funders were and if the grants cover all our costs. Julie Christie advised that ERCS was in a fairly secure position with three-year funding streams but that ERCS was continually looking for funding opportunities, and that Shivali Fifield would talk more about this in her presentation in Part 2. There were no more questions from members.

Julie Christie 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.

3. Governance

- Resolution to alter the Constitution (minor amendments)



Lloyd Austin spoke to paper 3 which was the Resolution to make minor amendments to the Constitution. These are to reflect operational processes and accommodating online meetings.

Colin Reid asked if these amendments were compliant with OSCR's guidelines. Shivali Fifield confirmed that the amendments for online meetings were recommended by OSCR who provided the wording.

An online poll was conducted and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

The Resolution and amended Constitution will be sent to OSCR for their records.

4. Trustees' retiral and re-election

Lloyd Austin introduced paper 5 which outlined the register of trustees and schedule of retirement. As this is ERCS's first AGM, the Board were not seeking any new nominations for trustees. Additional trustees will be elected from the membership at future AGMs.

Deborah Long took over the chair at this point.

- Scottish Environment LINK's nominated trustees

Between 3 July 2020 and 21 September 2021, Lloyd Austin and Deborah Long held the two nominated LINK positions.

From 21 September 2021, Scottish Environment LINK's Governance Group have nominated Deborah Long and Aedán Smith to be their representatives on the ERCS Board.

- Resolution for the re-election of trustees

In accordance with the Constitution (clause 71) at the first AGM one third of the trustees will retire from office but are eligible for re-election. As the first appointed Mary Church, Clare Symonds and Lloyd Austin retired as trustees and confirmed they would like to stand for re-election.

An online poll was conducted and the Resolution to re-elect Mary Church, Clare Symonds and Lloyd Austin 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 4pm.

Part 2 Meet the team (4.05pm - 5pm)

There was a short break followed by presentations by the staff team:

Emilia Hanna – Advocacy Officer, Ben Christman - in-house Solicitor and Shivali Fifield – Chief Officer.



ERCS's business plan has been updated to extend to December 2022 and is also available on the website. Members will have an opportunity to input into ERCS's strategic review with dedicated workshops during the summer resulting in a 3-year strategic plan for 2023- 26.

Each member of staff gave an overview of their work and key achievements this year followed by an opportunity for members to ask any questions. There were several questions which were answered by both staff and trustees.

Lloyd Austin ended the meeting by thanking everyone again.

These minutes were approved as an accurate record by the members present at the virtual second Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 28 September 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lloyd Austin', written over a faint, illegible stamp or background.

Signed: Lloyd Austin, Chair.