

## ERCS Virtual AGM 2023

### Minutes of the virtual third AGM (draft)

Held on Wednesday 11 October 2023, 6- 7.30pm

#### Present (online via zoom)

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

Ordinary members: there were 19 ordinary members including Associates.

Apologies: there were apologies from 11 ordinary members including Associates.

Staff: Shivali Fifield, Benji Brown, Cornell Hanxomphou.

#### AGM Business

##### 1. Chair's welcome

Lloyd welcomed everyone to the third 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 28 September 2022

The minutes for the virtual second AGM held on 28 September 2022 (paper 1) were approved with no amendments.



### 3. Annual report & financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2022

- Chair's Report

Lloyd noted the main achievements of the year which are detailed in the Trustees' Report accompanying the financial statements. From a governance perspective, he highlighted the key achievements of publishing a new strategy and the consolidation of ERCS's organisational resilience with increased funding.

He mentioned that there would be an opportunity to ask questions on ERCS's work following the presentation given by Shivali, the Chief Officer.

- 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. Lloyd thanked Julie for her work as treasurer.

**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.

A member asked about the risks in setting up a law practice unit. Shivali outlined that there were financial and organisational risks which had been carefully considered by the Board. On balance, the Board feels this is the right time to take this decision and if unsuccessful, the practice can be closed and ERCS revert to its current practice. Two advice clients stressed the value of the Advice Service and the demand for taking more legal representation as evidenced by recent wins.

There were no more 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 Julie Christie, Mary Church and Clare Symonds. All three confirmed they would like to stand for re-election.

- Resolution for the election of new trustees

In accordance with clause 66 of the Constitution, Thomas Ballantine was appointed by the Board to be a co-opted trustee in March and retires from office at the AGM but is eligible for election. Thomas would like to stand for election.

The call for member nominations for new trustees was circulated on 11 September 2023 and applications were received from Jim Jarvie and Pippa Scott. In line with [ERCS protocol on electing trustees](#), these applications have been approved by the Board.

Paper 4 gives a short biography and personal statement from each person wanting to stand for re-election/election.

**Members were asked to vote for each person individually via the zoom voting application.**

**The Resolution to re-elect Julie Christie, Mary Church and Clare Symonds was passed by a majority vote.**

**The Resolution to elect Thomas Ballantine, Jim Jarvie and Pippa Scott was passed by a majority vote.**



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

***There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting closed at 7.30pm.***