



ROYAL SOCIETY of BIOLOGY in SCOTLAND

The tenth annual general meeting of the Royal Society of Biology in Scotland Branch Committee took place from **13.35 on Saturday, 13th October 2018, at the Roslin Institute, Easter Bush, EH25 9RG**

Minutes

Present: Kevin O'Dell (Chair), David Coates (Secretary), Russ Clare (Treasurer) and 18 other members.

10.0 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: Dr Brian P. Forster, Dr Eva Malone, and Prof A Tobyn,

10.1 The minutes of the ninth annual general meeting of the Scottish Branch Council held on Saturday, 14th October 2017, at The Roslin Institute, Easter Bush were approved as a correct record.

10.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes other than agenda items.

10.3 Annual Reports:

10.3.1 Chair's Report:

The Chair reported on the many activities which have taken place over the last year, thanking all those involved for their many contributions including Mossfest with Jane Magill, East Lothian Science Festival with Janice Barr, and activities during Biology Week. Jacqueline Nairn had organised the excellent Annual Symposium just prior to this AGM; attended the launch of the Life and Chemical Sciences Investment Plan in June; and is working on the career pathways for Biologists in Scotland project. RSBS was well represented at the Science in Parliament event in November 2017, celebrating science in Scotland in general as well as recognising those young people who've achieved so much in their exams. The RSPB Loch Leven visit in May 2018, and the 23rd Scotland Annual Teachers' Meeting were both very successful: particular thanks to Jack Jackson for the continued success of the latter. With the Synapse online forum (now funded by SSERC), to which about 80% of biology teachers subscribed, we are having a significant impact on biology education in Scotland; The new Policy subcommittee under the aegis of Nicola Marchant is having a

significant input into UK as well as Scottish policy, with responses to the DEFRA draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill Feb 2018; the House of Lords EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee inquiry into the impact of Brexit on the UK's plant and animal biosecurity. April 2018, and the House of Commons Science & Technology Select Committee's inquiry on "Balance and effectiveness of research and innovation spending" September 2018.

10.3.2 **Secretary' Report**

The Secretary presented the key changes in the new Constitution which had been discussed with RSB Head Office, and was approved by the AGM by acclamation.

10.3.3 **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer gave an explanation of income and expenditure, and expressed thanks to Roslin for hosting this meeting.

10.4 **Election of Secretary, Confirmation of Office-bearers and election of Branch Committee Members:**

10.4.1 The Honorary Officers were approved by the AGM:

10.4.2 Chair Professor Kevin O'Dell

Depute Chair (Policy) Dr Nicola Marchant

Depute Chair (Education) Dr Jacqueline Nairn

Treasurer Dr Russ Clare

Secretary: **Dr Andrew Spiers** was elected by the AGM to the position of Secretary, replacing Prof David Coates, *nominated by Kevin O'Dell, Seconded by David Coates*. The Chair led a vote o

10.4.3 Three Ordinary Members were elected to the | Committee by the AGM

Dr Liz Lakin, *proposed by Alastair MacPherson, seconded by Jacqueline Nairn*

Dr Chas Nelson, *proposed by Liz Lakin and seconded by Nicola Marchant*

Professor Alyson Tobin, *proposed by David Coates and seconded by Kevin O'Dell*

10.5 **Any other business.**

The Chair led a vote of thanks to the outgoing secretary for his contribution over (too) many years, and the meeting closed at 13.53.