

IAGrE Wrekin BranchAGM

Minutes of the Wrekin Branch 46th Annual General Meeting, held at 6.30pm on 14th March 2016, at Harper Adams University



The professional
body for the
landbased sector

Present:

Jim Loynes (Chair)	Dave Clare (Sec)	Graham Higginson	David White
Simon Cooper	Henry Thorpe	John Gittins	Richard Smalley
Phil Metcalfe	Ruth Metcalfe	Jake Smith	Paul Hemingway
Robert Merrall			

1	Apologies Apologies were received from: Neal Dodd, Robin Carter, Richard Boak, Denis Cartmel, David Gillingham, Bill Basford
2	Minutes of the 45th AGM: The minutes of the 45 th AGM were circulated before the meeting. The minutes were accepted as being a correct record of the AGM.
3	Matters arising from the 44th AGM None
4	Chairman's Report The Chairman thanked the committee for their support. He also particularly thanked Richard Smalley and SSAB for stepping in at the last minute with technical presentations. The Chairman stated that he was disappointed with young members that there was no interest in the Young Engineers Competition or Geoffrey Wakeham Prize. The Chairman noted that the pre-technical meeting refreshments and the chance to network was working well and should continue.
5	Treasurer's Report The branch received a grant of £1061 from Head Office and has spent £546, increasing out total branch funds to £1919. The total membership for the branch is slightly down on the previous year. Professional registrations are static with the lower grades down a little and the higher grades up a little. At the previous AGM Mr David White questioned how we had spent £641.97 on the Young Engineers Competition when there wasn't one? The treasurer believed this was an error on behalf of the Head Office. The treasurer was able to confirm that it was an error on behalf of Head Office. The item should have stated that it was £641.97 spent on the transport to the technical visit to IBERS at Aberystwyth. Mr David White asked how good we are at converting student members to full members. This was particularly difficult to assess as many student members transfer to other branches. The Treasurer could not answer the question at the time. The question was asked as to how many LTA members were there in the branch as many are EngTech members. Again the Treasurer could not answer the question at the time.
6	Election of Branch officers All outgoing committee members were voted on again en-bloc. The following were appointed Chairman Jim Loynes Honorary Secretary D Clare Honorary Treasurer G Higginson Vice chairman S Cooper Information officer Bill Basford Immediate past chairman Phil Metcalfe

	<p>Committee – D White, P Misiewicz, N Dodd, R Fillingham, Robin Carter, Richard Smalley, John Gough, John Gittins, Melvin Johnson, Jacob Smith. Proposed by John Gough, Seconded by Richard Smalley</p> <p>Additionally Henry Thorpe and Findley Whitehead appointed. Proposed by Jim Loynes, Seconded by Dave Clare</p>
7	<p>Presidential Address – Presented by Dr Robert Merrall (President Elect)</p> <p>Highlights of the address were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful licence renewal by the Engineering Council. • Successful accreditation by the Society for the Environment. • A significant increase in new memberships. • Successful recruitment of new staff at HQ. • An informative and enjoyable annual conference held at Newcastle University. • There is continued support for 'Agri Tech' from Government. • The Fresh IAgRE image and marketing material was starting to have positive effects. • The membership of all grades was down except the pre-professional grades (up 118). (Mr Jim Loynes did express the view that this was due to the peak in student numbers a few years ago just prior to the increase in student university fees.) • The Institution was improving what it can offer and how to register. • Communication was improving. • There were more technical groups. • The institutions finances were strong with over £5M • There was a significant income from the Biosystems Engineering journal. • A negative budget was being set for 2016/17 to invest improving the website, member database and professional membership support to help retain members. • The institution was working with the AEA, BAGMA, LANTRA and Landex. • The institution had a good relationship with Government departments such as BIS and Defra • The Institution was influencing the Government and Industry agenda through the Royal Academy of Engineering. • Member need to focus on Continued Professional Development and recording it, as this was a requirement of members under the Engineering Councils licence.
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>
9	<p>Close</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7:40pm</p>

Chairman

Date