

I AgrE Wrekin Branch AGM

Minutes of the Wrekin Branch 52nd Annual General Meeting, held at 7.30pm on 6th April 2022, Online.



The professional
body for the
landbased sector

Present:

Dave Clare (Sec)	Simon Cooper (Chair)	Bill Basford	Jim Loynes
Melvin Johnson	David White	Graham Higginson	John Gough
Will Flittner	Charlie Nicklin	Rhodri Williams	Declan Flynn

1	Apologies
1.1	Apologies were received from: Sam Scales, Denis Cartmel.
2	Minutes of the 51st AGM:
2.2	The minutes of the 51 st AGM were circulated before the meeting. Apart from a couple of spelling and grammar mistakes, the minutes were accepted as being a correct record of the AGM. (Proposed by Jim Loynes, seconded by Bill Basford).
3	Matters arising from the 51st AGM
3.1	The Wrekin branch bank account has now been closed and all funds transferred to HQ.
3.2	Graham Higginson relinquished the position of treasurer once the bank account and funds were transferred.
4	Chairman's Report (in summary)
4.1	<p>The meeting this year have generally adopted the format of in person with synchronous streaming on-line. The blended approach appears well received. There was a short interlude mid-season when COVID restrictions limited activities to on-line only.</p> <p>The 2020-21 season closed with a presentation by Richard Garnett on agrochemical closed transfer systems.</p> <p>The 2021-22 season opened with a presentation from Colin Arnold and Dean Cotty of CLAAS on their Terratrak halftrack system. This was followed by presentations on the Super Tom field scouting robot by ex-Harper student Raymond King.</p> <p>In December meetings then went back to on-line only with presentations on anaerobic digester management by ex-Harper student Will Tuer, the conservation of architectural metalwork by Richard Turner, and small-scale hydro power generation by Miles Postlethwaite.</p> <p>In March the season of presentations went back to being in person and on-line, and concluded and with a presentation by Oscar Smith on farm management, which highlighted some of the financial implications of increasing fuel, fertilizer and labour costs, partially due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.</p> <p>The chairman felt that the synchronous face-to-face and on-line delivery of presentations worked well, allowing members from other branches and those unable to travel, to partake in meetings.</p> <p>The chairman thanked the committee for their hard work in putting together a season of presentations, particularly the secretary.</p>
5	Election of Branch officers
5.1	Simon Cooper stood down as chairman.
5.2	John Gittins stood down as vice chairman due to personal and work commitments, but is still prepared to be on the committee.
5.3	Prior to the meeting Dave Clare had been in contact with Jacob Smith. Jacob confirmed that he would be standing down from committee as he now works in Yorkshire.
5.4	Dave Clare has been unable to contact Adam Stephen. It is thought that he now lives outside the Wrekin area and works in the family business in the north of England. Dave Clare to continue trying to contact Adam and confirm if he will or will not be continuing on the committee.
5.5	All existing committee members were happy to continue serving on the committee. It was proposed that if members had no objection, the existing committee members would be re-elected en bloc. There were no objections. Proposed by Jim Loynes, seconded by Graham Higginson.
5.6	Harper Adams students Rhodri Williams and Eric Murry have volunteered to stand on committee. Their joining of the committee was proposed by Dave Clare and seconded by Declan Flynn.

5.7	There was a nomination of Graham Higginson as the new chairman. Proposed by Simon Cooper, seconded by Jim Loynes
5.8	<p>There were no nominations for the post of vice chairman so this post remains vacant.</p> <p>In summary the committee is as follows: Chairman Graham Higginson Honorary Secretary David Clare Information officer Bill Basford Immediate past chairman Simon Cooper</p> <p>Committee – D White, N Dodd, John Gough, Henry Thorpe, Kit Franklin, Jim Loynes, Tom Wellsbury, Sam Scales, Adam Stephen (to be confirmed), Will Flittner, Rhodri Williams & Eric Murray.</p>
6 6.1	<p>Presidential Address – Presented by Charlie Nicklin</p> <p>Highlights of the address were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite Covid, a productive year. • Digital material remains popular – 12 lectures, 7 podcasts, 5 specialist seminars. • 28 branch meetings, some face to face. • 2021 conference held live (Future Fuels for Agriculture), excellent attendance on line with 5 presentations followed by a panel discussion. • Landward has over 2000 subscribers worldwide and is available electronically. • Biosystems Engineering Journal receiving ≈1200 paper p.a. with ≈18% accepted for publication. • Has a continually growing impact (>4) and citation. • UK SPEC 4th Edition rolled out by Engineering Council with update language, inclusivity and more clarity on competences. • Continuing to promote Professional Qualifications, with a health interest in registration. • Branch activities have continued mainly online, although some have been face to face. • Continuing to work with AEA/BAGMA supporting careers in land-based engineering through LE-TEC; T-Level development, apprenticeship standards, etc. • Regular liaison with RAEng on National Engineering policy support. • Continue to work with European colleagues through EurAgEng. • CEO continues to work with education and industry, improving IAgRE's relationship • Special Interest Groups updates with a new Robotics/Autonomous vehicles group formed. • Diversity and Inclusion Committee formed. • Finances remain well managed, membership numbers are stable, and commercial/academic partners increased. • IAgRE held in high regard by Engineering Council, The Society for the Environment, and RAEng. • Membership/registration needs to increase, especially EngTech to attract younger members. • Members are urged to be active on social media for IAgRE and promote our industry.
7 7.1	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>
8 8.1	<p>Close</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:35pm</p>

Chairman

Date