

 Yorkshire Branch

**Minutes of the meeting 1st May 2019, 4pm Dept Chemistry, University of York**

**1. Attendance**

In attendance: Sohan Jheeta, Lynda Partridge, Danae Dodge, Fiona Real, Richard Reece-Jones, Chris Collins, Danny Filer (RSoB regions)

**2. Apologies**: Val Randall, Emma Jones, Graham Bonwick (mistook time)

**3. Minutes or previous meeting: 20 February, Sheffield**

These had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

A new Secretary is still needed. Rebecca Robertson (PhD student, University of Leeds) had expressed an interest and was sent relevant information. Danny to follow up on this. Danae also knew someone who had expressed an interest (Chloe McCole) - to follow up if Rebecca does not want to join.

ACTION – Danny to contact Rebecca

**5. Finance**

Lynda is setting the overdue Branch budget proposal for 2018-19, with help from Karen Patel (RSoB regions). There was some discussion on guidelines for budget setting. Chris suggested circulating a list of expense headings associated with events such as the Autumn Symposium to make budget setting easier.

ACTION Lynda to complete Budget proposal for 2018 + send Chris a list of expense heading (cc Graham?)

**6. Debrief on recent events (Frontiers of Science Meeting, Leeds 16th March)**

The symposium was very successful with >100 attendees (~2/3 of those who registered, which is typical). Sohan has submitted a report. Feedback (compiled by Chris) was positive, but some comments on problems with the sound system. Chris will modify the Housekeeping notes for next year to deal with these issues.

ACTION Chris to modify Housekeeping

**7. Report on RSoB All Branches Meeting, 28th March**

Lynda and Danae attended this and found it very useful. Slides from the meeting have been circulated by RSoB regions. Danny was invited to answer any questions arising. There was some discussion on the suggestion raised at the All Branches Meeting of contacting the Region’s University Biology Societies so that Danae can contact them via social media. Danny offered to send a list of these. There was also discussion about how to contact schools in the region (acknowledged to be difficult without a personal contact).

ACTION Danny to send list to Danae

**8. Plans for Autumn Symposium 2019. “Clean Water”.**

Danae had circulated a list of potential speakers for this, as suggested at the previous Committee Meeting. Lynda and Danae had both suggested representation from the University of Hull on their “Sullied Sediments” project (led by Professor Jeanette Rochelle). Lynda has contacted Professor Rochelle, who responded positively and suggested talks by 2 of her PhD students (one on spore products used to clean up sewage effluents of pharmaceuticals, one on a RiverDip app and changing citizen behaviour). Both have spoken at Science Festivals. Prof Rochelle also responded positively to the suggestion of holding the meeting in Hull and put Lynda in touch with the Faculty Events Team at Hull. Lynda has sent an outline of requirements to Yvonne Bajan at Hull. If at Hull the event will need to be on Saturday16th November, as potential speakers are attending a conference in Rotterdam the previous Saturday. All agreed on this date. From the list of other suggested speakers, Natalie Lamb (PhD student, UEA), who Lynda and Danae met at the All Branches Meeting, was selected to speak on using chemicals to treat drinking water. Others selected to invite were Prof. Lorraine Maltby (University of Sheffield) on Freshwater Ecology and Dr Pat Rahman (University of Portsmouth) on Waste Management. Provisional running order: Prof Maltby, Sullied Sediments Project (possibly combining both PhD students from Hull in one talk?), Natalie Lamb, Pat Rahman. Isabel Douterelo (environmental microbial ecology, University of Sheffield) could be a back-up if one of the proposed speakers can’t make the date.

There was some discussion on making the topics of interest to 6th formers or having a session focused on these, but on balance it was felt that this might be better as a separate RSoB event.

A linked visit to The Deep (although attractive!) was thought to be outside the scope of the Symposium

ACTION: Danae to formally invite Natalie Lamb, Lynda to invite Prof Maltby (or someone from her group) and Dr Rahman. Lynda to follow up with Hull on arrangements for venue etc.

6th form/schools targeted event to be discussed at a future Committee Meeting, ideally with input from Fiona.

**9. Summer Outing**

Chris Collins suggested a visit to the RHS Horticultural Garden Harlow Carr in Harrogate + a talk. This was very popular with the Committee. Richard also suggested a Railways Ecology Walk (sorry Richard – notes lacking here ..), also popular. Date tbc

ACTION Chris and Richard to liaise.

**10. Covance Tour**

To be discussed at a later meeting.

**11. Future of the Frontiers of Science Meeting (Sohan)**

Sohan has already started planning for this next meeting (14th or 21st March tbc) and hopes to expand this further in subsequent years. Next year’s meeting will still be at KPMG, although as this has a maximum capacity for 130, further expansion will require a new venue. In addition to speakers from Biology, chemistry and astrobiology, Sohan plans to invite a 4th speaker to talk about “Space” …. (Sohan, I think you were more specific, but notes lacking. He also raised the possibility of rolling out the event to other Regions

ACTION: Sohan to confirm date and discuss with RSoB extending event to other regions.

**12. The Biologist deadlines**

Available online

**13. Date of next committee meeting**

Early July was suggested, to focus on the Autumn Symposium.

ACTION: Lynda to suggest dates.

**14. AOB**

It was suggested that it would be good to formally thank Clive Tiney (former Treasurer) and Steve Picksley (former Secretary) for their past contributions, as both have now stood down from the Committee. Danny suggested an RSoB pin; pens were also suggested.

ACTION: Committee to consider these options.

The future of the next joint RSC/RSB seminar in York was discussed as Brian Grieves is no longer on the RSC Committee and had previously expressed the view that RSC/RSB should alternate in organising. It would be good to keep this in York, but RSB has had problems identifying a local member keen to take this on.

ACTION: Lynda to discuss with new RSC Committee in York