

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held at Faraway  
Ringstead Bay on Sunday 25 August 2019**

The Chairman, John Young (JY), welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Apologies: Mark Ventom; John & Rosemary Parry; Tim Williams & Nick Williams; Julian Arkell; Will Edwards; Simon & Lydia Lebus; Will Scott; Rupert & Gill Edwards; Toby, Simon & Nick Walker; Nick Thomas and Sue Blane.
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM. These had been circulated prior to the meeting and members were asked if it were their wish that JY signed them as a true record. The meeting voted unanimously for him to do so.
3. Matters Arising. JY said he hoped members would permit him to deal with matters arising by way of his report which also touched on the Trustees' Report and served to bring members up to date.
4. JY reported that he, Ian Scott (IS) and Nigel Williams had met Jonnie Russell to discuss various matters including the presence of contractors on his land at Ringstead laying fibre optic cable. The work is expected to finish at the end of September and should improve broadband speeds which are currently less than 1mbps. It wasn't known when the connection to properties would be made. JY had raised the subject of electric cars and whether people would want charging facilities at Ringstead in which case he hoped there would be sufficient capacity. There was no move to put a charging point in the car park at present. Beach erosion was mentioned in the meeting and Jonnie is now dubious about the wisdom of intervention. There was no sign of any replacement for the vandalized meter at the National Trust Car Park. Jonnie, JY, IS and Alastair Fisher (AF) had attended a Parish Council Meeting at Osmington to speak against the proposal to extend to 56 days the licence for camping at Eweleaze Farm. Permission has been refused. The RPS website has a number of documents on it relevant to the Society's business and members were recommended to view it at [www.ringsteadprotectionsociety.org.uk](http://www.ringsteadprotectionsociety.org.uk) Alastair was asked to update members on the situation regarding the Creek Caravan Site and said that its shareholders were currently unable to reach agreement on its future so a licence for another year had been issued. JY had met with a Dorset County Council engineer who agreed to try and quantify the rate of erosion of the cliff in front of Over The Hills. From photographs taken periodically since 2002 and data from the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, the conclusion was that 2.3m (90.6 inches) had been lost which was a rate of 0.14m (5.3 inches) a year and would mean that in 100 years the cliff would have retreated as far as the road. This information would be used as background for the next Beach Management Plan due in 2020/21. JY commented that Ian Scott felt he would have to move his winch inland again because of the changing profile of the cliff and that he thought the estimates conservative as the measurements were being taken from the top of the cliff rather than looking at the undermining of it that was occurring. He said he had joined the Pathfinder Group and attended various meetings but it remained his biggest disappointment that he had not felt he had been able to achieve much in relation to the erosion issue. RPS has been invited to contribute to the Jurassic

Trust's new partnership plan for the next five years and should do so by October 4. Information could be found on the website [www.jurassiccoast.org](http://www.jurassiccoast.org) Alfie Kirkpatrick asked what was permissible for people to do in relation to removing material from cliffs as he had seen people hacking away at rock looking for fossils. John Banham said Charmouth had a bylaw banning that and signs saying so.

5. JY said it had been a quiet year for the RPS but it was very much fit for purpose thanks to the formation of the CIO and in a sound financial position. RPS was grateful, as ever, to Rupert Edwards for auditing its accounts. He handed over to AF whose report has been posted online. AF took members through the accounts and said that the bank interest was up slightly. On membership, he said 12 members had been lost during the transition but new members had joined so numbers were about the same. A question was asked about the lack of expenses claims from officers but AF said these were minimal. The current officers had declined to claim but this should not stop future incumbents. The matter of JY's generous provision of AGM refreshments was raised and it was suggested it could be discussed in future as to whether the cost could be covered by the Society.
6. Note 2 on the agenda explained that Sue Kirkpatrick had stood down as a Trustee. Two of the other Trustees, JY and IS, were retiring in accordance with the Society's constitution but standing for re-election. JY asked for a proposer and seconder for their re-election. Karen Williams proposed and Alfie Kirkpatrick seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. No one had put themselves forward as a new Trustee so JY with the agreement of his fellow Trustees had approached Lucy Kirkpatrick who had accepted his invitation to stand. He asked for a proposer and a seconder for the motion. Nigel Williams, proposed; Liz Carter seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. JY said AF as treasurer and Vicky Banham (VB), secretary had indicated they would offer themselves for re-election although VB said she would like the Society to find someone to replace her since she had only taken the role for a limited period. JY had told the 2018 AGM that he felt that after 12 years as Chairman, it was time to stand down and the meeting had agreed Nigel Williams would be a worthy successor. He moved the three elections, Alfie Kirkpatrick proposed, Freda Fisher seconded and the motion was carried unanimously. NW thanked the meeting saying most members had known him for most of his life and knew how passionately he felt about Ringstead as did they so he would do his best to keep RPS running and hoped he could do half as good a job as JY had. A proposal of thanks was also made to Louise who had supported John and done such an amazing job with refreshments every year.
7. There was no other business. IS paid tribute to JY whom he said had started making a contribution to the RPS even before he became Chairman. Around 15 years ago, there were projects to lay mains drains and bury the electricity cables at Ringstead. JY had taken on the role of 'clerk of works' representing the householders and brought the complicated work in on time and to budget. As Chairman he had taken on the issue of beach erosion and new beach management plan in the face of the dwindling resources of the local authorities. He had handled all with tact, diplomacy, good humour and the ability to take people with him. We owed him an enormous debt of gratitude. JY said it had been an honour and he was delighted to hand over to someone with such dedication. IS presented JY with a gift and the meeting closed.