

**Minutes of the 7th ALERC Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2016 13:45 – 14.30, Wednesday 12th October 2016
BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DR**

Directors present: Martin Horlock (MH, Chair), Nicky Court (NC), Adam Rowe (AR), Mandy Rudd (MR), Mark Wills (MW), Ian Egerton (IE), Gary Lewis (GL), Clare Blencowe (CB), Sara Carvalho (SC, Minutes). Also present were 76 members and ALERC's National Coordinator Tom Hunt (TH).

The Chair declared the meeting open at 13:45 and briefly introduced the ALERC directors to the membership, including new directors.

1. Apologies

- No apologies received.

2. Chair's report (MH)

- MH gave a brief overview of the year and emphasised ALERC's continued commitment to supporting LERCs.
- ALERC continues to work to deliver the 5 year strategy, which is the main focus of the ALERC national coordinator's role.
- Membership has grown.
- ALERC continues to play a key advocacy role for LERCs.
- ALERC continues to work to overcome any challenges facing LERCs such as those brought about by NE's recent position/announcement.
- ALERC represents LERCs/works on behalf of LERCs with organisations such as the NBN Trust (particularly in the context of the emerging NBN Atlases development).
- ALERC also sought to input into key consultations and reports including the State of Nature report.
- A draft annual report is available and the final report will be made available shortly.
- MH emphasised that ALERC needs and welcomes the views of the membership on any matters and encouraged members to get involved through the forum, by supporting/joining any of the ALERCs working groups or in any other way members feel is helpful. There is a summary of the working groups in the annual report which members can refer to and join if they wish/can help. Publicity and help with the organisation of the conference are areas where help is particularly needed.
- ALERC will shortly seek the membership's views on DEFRA's 25 year plan.
- MH highlighted the importance of having Scotland representation on the ALERC board and requested that any Scottish members that feel they are able to represent Scottish LERCs get in touch.

3. Treasurer's report

- NC presented a summary of the accounts. Full official accounts are available and will be submitted to Companies House.
- NC highlighted the importance of membership fees and the need to pay these as soon as the membership renewal is due.
- The income shortfall to cover the ANC's post is expected to be covered by external project contract work (which is in line with the 5 year strategy).
- Accreditation fees are no longer due as these are now included in the membership fee.

- ALERC will become a member of Wildlife Link for a trial period. This will incur a membership fee.

4. ALERC National Coordinator's report

- TH gave a brief overview of the year and highlighted some key work areas and achievements.
- TH emphasised the importance of the Forum as the primary means of communication amongst the membership and encouraged all to continue to consult the Forum and to participate and contribute to the discussions as well as post any queries/views/ideas.
- NE's MoA termination was a critical development this year and ALERC played a vital role in representing LERCs views.
- ALERC continues to engage with any developments on this and is keen to hear from members where members have provided/have been requested to provide data services to NE since the termination of the MoA.
- ALERC are keen to encourage and support all LERCS to obtain accreditation with the 5 year strategy period (by 2020). The support of two new assessors, Mark Wills and Lizzy Oddy, has been successful and expands the capacity to asses LERCs under the accreditation system. There is still a need to train more assessors.
- TH referred to the Welsh LERCs close collaborative model as an example of good working practice that makes strong/clear representation easier/more effective.

5. Appointments

- MH listed which of the ALERC Directors had resigned since the last AGM. These are as follows: Craig Slawson, Simon Wood, Teresa Frost and Darwyn Sumner (Company Secretary).
- MH listed the new ALERC Directors appointed (appointment of new Directors took place at the meeting of the 22/09/2016). These are as follows: Clare Blencowe (Sussex BRC); Gary Lewis (ERCCIS) and Sara Carvalho (EcoRecord).

6. AOB

- None