

**Minutes of the 8th ALERC Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2017 13:45 – 14.30, Wednesday 11th October 2017  
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 Lovell (SL, Secretary/Minutes), Steve Whitbread (SW).

Also present were 68 members and ALERC's National Coordinator Tom Hunt (TH).

The Chair declared the meeting open at 13:45

### **1. Apologies**

No apologies received.

### **2. Chair's report (MH)**

MH gave a brief overview of the year's key achievements and emphasised ALERC's continued commitment to supporting LERCs.

- Continued focus on delivering ALERC's 5 year strategy.
- ALERC has joined Wildlife Link which will help to raise LERC's profile and increase the impact/reach of ALERC's LERC advocacy work. ALERC represented LERC's views and interests in a number of important consultations.
- MH stressed the importance of accreditation and encouraged all LERC members to work to become accredited.
- MH emphasised the importance of membership engagement in ensuring that ALERC can best represent and support LERCs.
- ALERC continues to work with and represent LERCs amongst National bodies (e.g. EA and NBNT).
- MH announced that both he and MR were stepping down from the ALERC board and encouraged others to consider getting involved in supporting ALERC's work through becoming Directors and/or contributing to the work of any of the working groups.
- CB is the new proposed chair.

Thanks were expressed by the membership to both MH and MR for all their work on behalf of ALERC.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

- NC presented a summary of the accounts. Full official accounts are available and will be submitted to Companies House.
- Memberships have largely been renewed and NC stressed the importance of paying these as soon as possible, after the membership renewal information is received.
- NC reported that a trend of larger LERCs becoming smaller is being observed. This also impacts on the membership fees.
- Finally, NC stressed the importance of continuing to support ALERC's work through continuing to be an ALERC member.

### **4. Appointments & resignations**

- Resignations: MH and MR. CB appointed to the position of Chair. Other director appointments since the previous AGM: Steve Whitbread (SW).

- Appointments to the board of Directors approved.
- CB thanked MH and MR for their work for ALERC and expressed her wish to continue to work with all members to strengthen the LERC network.
- CB encouraged the membership to engage with Knowledge Hub which is replacing the ALERC Forum.

## 5. ALERC National Coordinator's report

- TH gave a brief overview of the year and highlighted some key work areas and achievements.
- TH announced that a new information sharing platform that replaces the Forum would soon become available for use by the membership - Knowledge Hub. This will replace the ALERC Forum as the primary means of communication amongst the membership and encouraged all to continue to contribute and participate in the discussions as well as post any queries/views/ideas. The old Forum will continue to be available as an archive and will allow searching for past discussions/information.
- TH also emphasised the importance/need for members to become accredited and described the current support role he is providing to help Staffordshire Ecological Record's accreditation.
- CB thanked TH for his work throughout the year.

## 6. AOB

- Advance notice of **NFBR conference**: Training for Biological Recording. Joint Conference with Manchester Metropolitan University & Field Studies Council, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury 10th-12th May 2018.