



### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) will be held online at Noon BST on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolutions which will be proposed as ordinary or special resolutions as indicated below. The AGM will last approximately 45 minutes.

#### Ordinary Resolutions

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023
2. To receive and adopt the 2023 Annual Report
3. To receive and adopt the accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023
4. To authorise the Council to appoint accountants for the fiscal year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

#### Elections

5. To elect members of Council (Articles 26-30)
  - Kerry Dinsmore
  - Luke Douglas-Home
  - Iain McLellan
  - Denise Adaoyibo Okpala
  - Uchenna Onyeizu
  - Lucy Parkin
  - Sarah Poulton
  - Liz Price

Voting is online through the [Members' Area](#) of the IES website.

#### Adam Donnan

CEO [By Order of the Board]  
April 2024

#### Relevant Documents

- (a) Minutes of 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (p.2)
- (b) [2023 Annual report](#)
- (c) [2022-23 Accounts](#) (pdf)
- (d) [Biographies of candidates standing for election 2024](#) (pdf)

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 6-8 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3NT, United Kingdom  
+44 (0)20 3862 7484 | [info@the-ies.org](mailto:info@the-ies.org) | [www.the-ies.org](http://www.the-ies.org)

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No 01053508. Registered Charity No 277611

**Auditors:** H W Fisher & Company, Acre House, 11-15 William Road, London, NW1 3ER

**Bankers:** Co-operative Bank, Business Direct, PO BOX 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

**Governing Document:** Articles of Association (2019)



### Minutes of the AGM held at 12.30pm, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Online Zoom Meeting

Julie Hill (JH) welcomed attendees to the 50<sup>th</sup> IES AGM. She explained that questions could be asked through the Q&A function and encouraged members who had not voted yet, to do so through the voting tool in the Members' Area.

#### Chair's Review of the Year (JH)

JH commented that she was entering into her third year as Chair and had made Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) one of her priorities, and she would continue to advance progress in this area.

She highlighted the unsettled nature of the external environment with a war in Europe, and resulting high energy prices, unexpectedly high inflation, and a cost-of-living squeeze. Whilst the pandemic had waned, it had left in its wake uncertainty about future employment for some, and the difficulty in finding the right employees for others. The politics of the environment has taken a back seat to the politics of the parties, with one notable exception – water quality and sewage; an area that IES is very equipped to help with.

She said that 2022 has shown up systemic weaknesses that we need to solve to achieve energy security, food security, decent homes for all, resilience to climate shocks, and to reverse the inexorable decline in biodiversity.

Against this background, the IES had held its Annual Burntwood Lecture in November to mark 50 years of the Institution's existence and its support for excellence in environmental science. Caroline Lucas MP was the keynote speaker. Caroline had talked about the '3 pillars' of the environmental community - the environmental professionals, the nature conservation bodies and campaigning environmental NGOs, and the Green Party. JH very much agreed with her comment: "I sometimes feel that we are all so focussed on our own immediate priorities, we can forget our wider community – and lose sight of the fact that we all have many allies and that together, we have become such a powerful collective force for the environment", but also with her challenge: "I also sometimes feel that we are nothing like as good at punching our weight politically as we are at delivering incremental real world environmental outcomes, day in and day out." JH emphasised this was a challenge for all of us in the environmental science community, one that must be picked up urgently by the next generation of environmental professionals. This was evidenced by a panel of young environmental voices at Burntwood who felt that the science *has* made a difference, but as yet not *enough* difference to the politics – at least not in a way that has influenced the underlying drivers of decline.

JH wondered whether this may mean we would look back 50 years and feel frustrated, if not pessimistic – which should drive the profession to greater effort. However, she felt we should celebrate the growing insights from the science and the media attention that flows from it, highlighting how the issue of water quality had shot to the top of the political agenda. The message that JH took away from the Burntwood Lecture is that a community of worried but committed people, are seizing this agenda, and making it theirs and making noise. She hoped we could bring as many of them as possible into the IES community, as they can help us, and we can help them. If we can demonstrate that changing the system in the ways we need will improve standards of living, not compromise them, then we can be optimistic about the next 50 years.

She thanked members for the work they do in delivering that optimistic vision and concluded by thanking Adam Donnan (AD) and the staff team for running IES so effectively, and her fellow Council members.

#### CEO's Reflections on 2022 & Plans for 2023 (AD)

AD highlighted that in 2023 we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which served as a point of inflection for the organisation to take stock of what we have achieved, but also to think about the work that still needs to be done to fulfil our mission of using scientific evidence to underpin a rapid transformation to a more sustainable society.



He had spent a bit of time in the rich archive of the early years of the Institution, and what was apparent was that the IES was very much part of the birth of modern environmentalism. 1972 (the IES's founding year), was a seminal year for the environment with the United Nations (UN) Conference on the Human Environment, the influential Club of Rome report *The Limits to Growth*, and the founding of the UN Environment Programme. 50 years on, the IES is a thriving institution that has achieved much. However, the growing body of knowledge of the natural world and systems interactions, have not prevented declining environmental health, resilience and supportive capacities. So, when the Institution reflected on 50 years of the IES shaping environmental science, they had tried for a tone that was celebratory, but not self-congratulatory.

He highlighted that, if the last year was a chance to look backwards, the coming year was about looking forward through an in-depth horizon scanning and foresight project. This would start at the broadest systems level (examining megatrends) and zoom into the personalised by the end of the year looking at individual jobs in the sector. Each of these themes would be supported by events, webinars, and written content. At the conclusion of each theme, a horizon scanning discussion would bring those voices together in one conversation. He urged members to get involved.

Risk had been the 2022 theme, with the IES combining the expertise of its interdisciplinary membership with its well-established leadership on systems thinking to work towards demystifying the concept of risk. The work led to the publication of a report, a journal and a framework for risk evaluation using a systems-thinking approach.

2022 would also be considered a landmark year because of the merger with the Foundation for Water Research (FWR), which builds on the IES's strength in land and air. AD urged members to get involved in the technical panels launching soon.

He highlighted the outputs of the IES in 2022 with 13 journals and reports published, 37 policy outputs, 94 events (including 45 CPD webinars), 25 pieces of analysis and 100 charterships awarded.

In 2022 the IES's new External Policy Advisory Committee had given staff crucial guidance and insight and put the voice of IES members at the heart of our policy work. In 2022 the IES launched a new policy training programme to upskill members in policy analysis and influence.

The 45 webinars had over 4,200 attendees, with an incredible array of topics covered from regenerative farming to climate change and the marine environment.

At lot of this work was built off the back of our communities; our special interest groups that shape the institution's work. In 2022 the COP26 group turned into a permanent Climate Action Community and in 2023 we will be launching communities on Water and on EDI.

There were a strong set of journals and publications, including: the usual breadth of topics for the environmental SCIENTIST, and the publication *A challenging environment: Experiences of ethnic minority environmental professionals*, a seminal report which published the findings of a year-long IES research project to examine some of the challenges and opportunities related to ethnic diversity in the environment sector; and the *Freshwater Biology and Ecology Handbook*, providing a core training and reference text for water professionals, ecologists, students and citizen scientists alike.

He outlined what members can expect to see in the coming year (in addition to the horizon scanning work): a yearlong theme looking at systems thinking for the marine environment (#TurningTheTide), the publishing of a new ED&I plan, and the FWR newsletter under IES editorialship. He provided an overview of the planned publications and conferences for 2023.



He concluded by thanking trustees, and the members. He praised the more than 400 members who volunteered with the IES whose commitment and dedication help the IES to achieve so much. AD hoped that we can continue shaping environmental science so that “at our 100-year anniversary, when future researchers are looking back on our achievements, they will do so with a sense of wonder at the impact we had.”

### **Treasurer's Update**

Ian Byrne (IB) gave a review of the 2021-22 accounts, highlighting the strong growth of the Institution over the last six years. This year, expenditure was slightly higher than income, but this was a planned budget deficit after several years of surplus.

He outlined that most income relates to membership income, with smaller amounts from grants and events, and a high proportion of expenditure is around support for our small staff team, with other expenditure kept low.

The balance sheet showed the assets are mainly held in cash at the bank to cover the membership renewal cycle. He highlighted that in the current year there will be a considerable increase in reserves from an inflow from the FWR grant. This will be invested sustainably, both in terms of a return to support FWR work and in aligning with a sustainable investment policy.

JH thanked IB for his thoroughness and dedication.

### **Questions**

*AD closed the online voting.*

In response to a question from a member who asked how they can get involved, AD highlighted the multiple ways members can volunteer for the Institution, and the opportunities for younger members to get involved through the early careers networks. JH highlighted opportunities to stand for Council, and announced our intention to put diversity at the heart of next year's Council recruitment.

In answer to a question about policy training, AD highlighted this was now a permanent fixture in the IES calendar and new policy resources were available on the website.

The meeting moved onto the resolutions. Voting took place entirely through the Members' Area of the website.

#### **1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

Proposed Eleni Antoniadis (EA), Seconded Jonathan Atkinson (JA) | 46 votes for, 9 abstentions, 0 against | Minutes approved.

#### **2. To receive and adopt the 2022 Annual Report**

Proposed EA, Seconded JA | 53 votes for, 2 abstentions, 0 against | Report adopted.

#### **3. To adopt the audited accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Proposed EA, Seconded JA | 53 votes for, 2 abstentions, 0 against | Accounts adopted.

#### **4. To authorise the Council to appoint Accountants for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Proposed EA, Seconded JA | 54 votes for, 1 abstention, 0 against | Council authorised to appoint accountants.

#### **5. To elect members of Council (Articles 26-30)**

The following Council members were elected: Chris Rush (52 votes for). JH noted that Eric Valentine and Tony Rachwal were appointed as trustees to provide governance oversight for the integration of FWR. She thanked Christine McHugh and Jackie Rogers who were retiring from the Council.

*The AGM concluded at 13:12.*