

# **LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LTD**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (14:00 GMT+1)

Held by Zoom videoconference

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT**

##### **LRG Trustees and Members:**

Linda Bjerketvedt, Vanesa Castan-Broto, Chris Dalglish, Graham Fairclough, Marouen Hedhlie, Karen Jones, Ian Mell, Gavin MacGregor (Treasurer), Ingrid Sarlöv-Herlin, Tim Waterman (Chair), Laura Watt.

##### **LRG Members:**

Yoji Aoki, Jayne Ashley, Paul Brindley, Andrew Butler, Tiago Cisalpino, Juliette Desportes, Jens Haendler, Anna Lena Hahn, Jez Hastings, Peter Howard, Urmila Rajadhyaksha, Gareth Roberts, Eirini Saratsi, Henrietta Simson, Basak Tanulku

##### **In Attendance (LRG Staff):**

David Saunders (Chief Executive and Company Secretary),  
Emily Shakespeare (Communications Manager)

##### **Apologies were received from:**

Steven Shuttleworth, Hannes Palang and Emma Waterton

**WELCOME AND NOTICE** – Tim Waterman, LRG’s Chair, welcomed LRG Members and the Notice calling the Annual General Meeting, was read. This year the AGM is being held online, as a Zoom meeting, and this facilitates a wider participation from further afield. The Chair reminded any non-members in attendance that they may remain as observers but were not eligible to vote on any of the resolutions during the meeting. The Chair then passed on to David Saunders, LRG’s Chief Executive and Company Secretary. As the attendance exceeded 10 Members the AGM was deemed quorate according to the rules of the company, and David Saunders, as Company Secretary, then formally opened the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Landscape Research Group Ltd. held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020.**

These Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions and a Zoom poll was taken, and compiled with any pre-voting to accept these as a true record.

**RESOLUTION 1** - There were 20 votes in favour, so the Minutes were thereby confirmed as a true record and were *approved*.

#### **Agenda Item 2. To approve the Directors' Report for the year ending 31st December 2020**

The report was summarised by the Chair and there being no comments or questions the members were asked to confirm their acceptance by a vote.

**RESOLUTION 2** - There were 22 votes in favour, so the Director's report was **approved**.

**Agenda Item 3. To approve the Auditor's Report and the Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2020**

Chair – A surplus of income over expenditure was generated again in 2020, largely as a result of the reduced travel costs during Covid. The surplus is to be used to improve the support for networks and improvements to the journal design.

Gavin McGregor (Treasurer) - Statement of activities overall position reporting a surplus in excess of £20k, adding to the Charity's general reserves. Income from membership, donations and legacies has increased as a result of reducing membership fees, which has allowed for growth in both the number of members, and increased income from this source.

No other questions were raised and the Chair moved to the resolution to approve the Financial statements.

**RESOLUTION 3** - There were 20 votes in favour, so the Financial Statements were **approved**.

Both the Directors' report and the company accounts were thereby formally approved and these documents will be signed by the Chair and then submitted to both Companies House and the Charity Commission.

**Agenda Item 4. - Subscription rates for 2021**

Emily Shakespeare provided an update on LRG's Membership during 2020.

LRG currently has 252 paid-up members. The adoption of variable membership subscription fees for non-OECD countries and students in 2020 has had some beneficial outcomes.

Over the past 12 months the spread of members has increased from 25 to 35 countries, with 38% of members from outside UK, increased to 47%.

Income has also increased despite the lower concessionary rates being implemented.

GR queried clarity over OECD definition.

The Board proposes no change to the membership subscription rates for 2021 so no polling was required.

**Agenda Item 5. – Election of Directors / Trustees**

As polling within Zoom was proving to be inaccessible to some participants the Chair proposed that the Secretary be asked to re-open the election using the established online / proxy voting option. An email will be re-sent inviting those who have not already voted this way to make their preferences for the election of Trustees for the following 12 months.

There were no objections for the Members attending and this option was agreed, with a deadline for close of voting by noon Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September, and outcome of the poll will be circulated during the following week.

- **Resolution 4** - After the (post-meeting) compilation of the proxy and online voting the following LRG members were confirmed as elected as Directors / Trustees of Landscape Research Group Ltd for the next year.

Jayne ASHLEY	15 votes (not elected)
Linda BJERKETVEDT	21 votes (elected)
Vanesa CASTÁN-BROTO	22 votes (elected)
Juliette DESPORTES	16 votes (elected)
Marouen HEDHLIE	20 votes (elected)
Karen JONES	20 votes (elected)
Merham KELEG	19 votes (elected)
Gillian LAWSON	16 votes (elected)
Gavin MACGREGOR	20 votes (elected)
Ian MELL	18 votes (elected)
Hannes PALANG	19 votes (elected)
Gareth ROBERTS	14 votes (not elected)
Ingrid SARLÖV-HERLIN	22 votes (elected)
Tim WATERMAN	25 votes (elected)
Emma WATERTON	23 votes (elected)
Laura Alice WATT	20 votes (elected)

**Agenda Item 6. To confirm the re-appointment of AM Wells Accountancy as the Auditors and to authorise the charity Trustees to set the level of the auditors' fees.**

A vote was taken on this resolution.

- **Resolution 6** - The combined votes (proxy and in-person) were:  
20 votes for approval, and the resolution was therefore carried.

The Meeting thereby **resolved** that the re-appointment of AM Wells Accountants be confirmed.

**Agenda Item 7. - Any Other Business**

There were no AOB items submitted in advance, but the Chair allowed the remaining time available to respond to questions from the LRG Members attending the meeting.

Question from Basak Tanulku, an independent scholar, willing to work with LRG on various issues and find LRG a great community to be involved with.

- LEX - how does this work? - ES replied that this is a curated shared place to share contributions from members and to explore other forms of research, including multi-media, that would not usually fit in the journal format.
- As an independent scholar, without an institutional affiliation how can I access support from LRG? - TW responded that an annual research funding call is issued each spring and this funding is made available to independent scholars.

TW responded by stressing that LRG's goal is to increase the numbers of research networks that Members can participate in. These include both established geographical and also new thematic networks, such as the one around the current research theme addressing issues of colonialism and landscape.

Regular online “coffee group” meetings were originally intended for ECRs, but now including post docs and other researchers.

Peter Howard hoped that the involvement of some more senior scholars was not constraining, and he confirmed that his involvement in some coffee morning meetings have been most helpful to him.

The Chair welcomed any suggestions from members to improve LRG’s networks, member engagement, and mentoring.

Gareth Roberts posted question in chat - could LRG make it easier for non-Board Members to flag up their research interests, and offer contact information, and to share them openly via LRG website. Some non-academics are also keen to share experiences, and useful research that could come out of that, if a way can be found to allow this interaction.

DS - Rules on data identity in UK make this difficult. To achieve this it would be necessary to set up a way to enable “opt-in” is the way forward, and this would allow personal profiles to be provided, with full consent, for viewing in the LRG member’s area of the website.

The meeting then closed with the Chair thanking the Members for their participation, and a special thanks to the retiring Trustees, Chris Dalglish and Graham Fairclough, for all their efforts in supporting LRG to grow, and also to welcome the new Trustees who are joining the Board.

There being no other business the meeting formally closed at 13:47.

*Minutes taken and compiled by:*

**David Saunders - Company Secretary**

**41 Grange Road, Lewes, BN7 1TS, UK**

21<sup>st</sup> September 2021