

AGI Council meeting minutes 16 May 2025

Meeting held online

Present: Peter ter Haar (Chair), Sam Tizzard, Ian Maxfield, Alan Moore, Heather Enticott, Ben Blowers, Fergus Craig, Esther Moore, Denise McKenzie, Liz Scott, Patrick Rickles, Vida Williams, Kenna Dallaway, James Wardroper, Tamsin Fulton,

Partial attendance: Alan Moore, James Wardroper, Richard Flemmings, Stuart Tosney

Apologies: Andrew Cameron, John Seabourn, Adam Burke

Not attending without apologies: Sara Stewart

The actions register was reviewed and updated.

Finance update

Alan reported that we are in a healthy position at this point in the year. Our year-to-date operating profit is £6600 and our balance sheet stands at £125k. Our trading income is showing an increase; however, this is largely a function of the timing of subscription renewals. The higher than budgeted cost of sales reflects additional costs for the Scotland GeoCom venue. Against this, we are currently underspent on Foresight Report costs. Overall there are no concerns.

Alan, Heather and Patrick are meeting monthly, with Patrick attending for possible succession.

Education and skills

Patrick reported on a recent working meeting where potential focus areas for 2025 were explored, building on the 2024 survey. A list of 15 'action areas' has been drawn up; GeoBusiness delegates will be polled to assess priorities.

We debated whether it was appropriate for AGI to focus on open source GIS, which is one of the action area candidates, and there was a general consensus that it makes sense to align the action areas with Foresight themes where possible. Patrick stressed the need to balance ambition and scope with the capacity of a small team of volunteers.

Action: Patrick will share details of the Skills and Education action areas and run a poll across Council.

There are also plans to build on current 'landscape mapping' activity, showing who's who across the geospatial ecosystem. Topics and issues arising from this are:

- Ownership: prior collaboration with RGS on this has led to some confusion about ownership of this initiative.
- Member data: AGI member contact details have been shared with Patrick. No personal information should be shared outside controlled systems. Action: Heather will review data sharing processes with Cheryl. It appears that members' employer data is not captured.
- Public vs member versions: Patrick suggested that members should be able to drill further into a version of the map to serve as a member directory.
- Software: appropriate visualisation software is required. Sam said that PowerBI licences could be purchased.

The concept of landscape mapping was supported, starting with an anonymised public version.

Action: Patrick to present a wireframe illustration of the landscape map concept at the June Council meeting.

Esri UK all-hands meeting

Ben reported that Esri UK (via Charles Kennelly) has invited an AGI Council member to speak at an all-hands meeting over the summer. We agreed that Fergus and Richard will jointly present with (a) an introduction to AGI and (b) a Foresight teaser, with the objective of securing Esri as a sponsor.

Technology update

Sam reported that a specific Microsoft licence has been allocated to ECN, justified by their need to deliver webinars. At the same time, all Zoom subscriptions are being cancelled.

Options to replace the current membership portal appear costly. The current focus is on improving workflow rules, and this has caused a drop in logged issues. However, changing member subscription rates remains an onerous task.

In addition, we do not have a well-configured CRM system. Sam and John have developed simple CRM functionality using SharePoint Lists, and this could be used to create an online form for capturing prospect details at external events.

Denise recommended investigating Zoho (CRM) and Circle.io (membership portal), widely used by non-profit organisations. Peter advised against developing too much functionality in house, as this could represent a continuity risk.

Action: Sam, Denise and Heather will review available CRM and membership software options.

Foresight Report

Richard reported that we have had a good response to the initial survey, which has provided some quantitative data and is informing the interview process. A set of themes is emerging, although the shape of these is still a topic of active discussion.

One interview has been completed so far, and more are being booked. There is a firm list of around ten target interviewees, and the configuration of the remainder is flexible; for instance, we may interview our MOU partners together. For Health and Defence CDO (i.e. non-geospatial) interviewee profiles are being considered. The aim is to do twenty by the end of June. It's intended that the interviews will define target speakers for the event. Bob highlighted the absence of OSNI from the interviewee list, and we agreed that this is an omission. **Action: Bob to identify an appropriate OSNI interviewee for the Foresight report.**

Faith Clark is the copywriter, and James Cutler and Christin Walter have been confirmed as editors. Both have offered to do this on a volunteer basis. Desktop publishing quotes are being sought.

A silver sponsor has been confirmed, and interest in sponsorship has been shown by three other companies. Sponsorship covers both the report and the event; platinum sponsors will have their logo (as opposed to a mention) included in the report, as well as a report preview and an opportunity to present at the event. The editorial independence of the report will be robustly defended.

GeoBusiness represents a sponsor recruitment opportunity. **Action: Tamsin will arrange printing of Foresight sponsor leaflets ready for GeoBusiness.**

Risk register

The register was briefly discussed. We agreed to table this for full discussion in July.

Action: All Directors to review and comment on the risk register.

AOB

July meeting venue: our first choice is the Esri office in Aylesbury; failing this, a room will be booked at OS at Southampton. Action: Simon and Mark to confirm a venue for the July 2025 in-person Council meeting.

GeoPlace conference: Tamsin reported that this is taking place on 22 May. Delegates will be encouraged to visit the AGI stand, and a photo of the stand will be sent to Cheryl.

GeoBusiness stand attendance: Richard asked for volunteers to attend the AGI stand through the event.