

thirty-nine members present, including the president (Buckland), Lyell, Warburton, Fitton, Greenough, Webster, and others; and the Council was 'empowered to take such measures as shall appear to them to be most efficient for obtaining a Charter of Incorporation for the Society.' The proceedings connected with this business occupied about a year.

On March 18, 1825, Mr. Warburton informed the Council that he and Mr. Vandercom had had an interview with the Attorney-General on the subject of the Charter. The Attorney-General stated that he saw no objection to any of the clauses, excepting that giving power to the Society to possess real property to the annual amount of 2,000*l.*, other similar societies being limited to 1,000*l.* Mr. Warburton remarked that if the objection were pressed the Society would reduce the sum to 1,000*l.*; but this evidently was not the case (see Appendix, p. 264).

On May 6, 1825, an official communication to the Council was made by Mr. Vandercom, that the Charter of the Geological Society of London had passed the Great Seal, and was in his possession; moreover, it was notified that the fees paid in obtaining the Charter amounted to 385*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

The Charter was granted on April 23, 1825,¹ by King George IV., to the Rev. William Buckland, Arthur Aikin, John Bostock, M.D., George Bellas Greenough, and Henry Warburton, who were nominated the first Fellows of the Geological Society. Buckland became the first president of the incorporated Society, and with the four Fellows above mentioned its first Council was formed. They were empowered to remain in office until the third Friday in February of the following year.

The new Council, in accordance with the Charter appointed 367 members to be Fellows, making with the

¹ In the printed copies of the Charter and Bye-laws, previously issued, the date of incorporation was stated to be 1826; probably because the full Council was not elected until that year. The Charter is printed, and for the first time correctly, in the Appendix.