



CORNWALL HERITAGE TRUST

Trest Ertach Kernow

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th November 2023 at 11am

Present: Col Edward Bolitho OBE (President), Lt Col Richard Trant (Chairman), Mrs Alison Davey, Mr Matthew Dickinson, Mrs Elizabeth Carne and Mr Peter Herring (zoom).

In Attendance: Mrs Cathy Woolcock (Trust CEO), Mr Ben Williams (Walker Moyle) Ms Paula Thomas (Walker Moyle), Mrs Kerry Horner (Secretary) and Ms Grace Kennard.

Also Present Mr Nick Hunn, Mr Geoff Cook, Mrs Rosemary Cook, Mr Dean Evans, Mr Nigel Roberts, Mrs Annie Brown, Mrs Mary Stubbins, Mr Luke Humphries, Mrs Elizabeth George, Mr Peter George, Mrs Delia Brotherton, Ms Helen Musser, Ms Alison Bick, Mrs Antonia Mullaly, Ms Sophie Meyer, Mr Dick Cole and Ms Kathryn Layte.
Zoom: Mr John Webb, Elaine Burgess, Janet Harvey, Simon Maddison, Julie Sutton, Anne Spearman, Carol Craze and Ann Preston Jones.

- 1 Col Bolitho welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that the Cornwall Heritage Trust was Cornwall's best kept secret but with the wonderful range and scope of members it is becoming more known. The President read an email from Mrs Jacques which thanked the President for helping achieve a hugely successful year and the Chairman for continuing the vision and dreams of his father, long may his leadership last.

Apologies were received from Mrs Clare Jacques, Mrs Dawn Hunn, Mrs Helen Rawe, Mr Richard Farrant, Mr Alasdair Moore, Ms Anne Fenwick, Ms Karin Easton, Ms Davina Haydon, Ms Susan Marriott, Mr Jonnie Taylor, Ms Dee Reeves, Mr James Agnew.

- 2 **Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 37th AGM held 12 October 2022 were approved, copies of which were circulated with the agenda and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

- 3 **Chairman's Report**

Lt Col Richard Trant thanked Mrs Jacques for her kind words. The Trust is 2 years into a 4-year business development plan to maintain financial stability by generating income to cover outputs and objectives; the plan is monitored and reviewed quarterly. The investment portfolio is reviewed quarterly, there is a fundraising strategy and sites acquisition strategy to increase the portfolio by one site per annum. £1.4M grant funding has been applied for, £760K grants were

successful and are generated against strategic outcomes. The Trust took ownership of St Cleer Well. A major donor enabled the acquisition of Tregonning Hill and it is hoped that others will come forward to make further acquisitions possible. Caer Bran was acquired last year, and the Trust are on the cusp of acquiring Duloe Stone Circle. The Trust has worked hard to engage with corporate sponsors. Historic England have been instrumental in supporting activities. The Trust is in talks with Cornwall Council who are keen to support heritage as part of their responsibilities.

Membership was the key area to develop to increase the Trust's profile and deliver greater in-year financial sustainability; the team have secured 11,000 members equating to an additional 5,000 memberships, up from 300 eight years ago; is an amazing achievement, well done team. The Trust conducted a survey of members to understand why they want to be members and, while concessions are welcome, the top reason was to protect and promote Cornwall's heritage; thank you members it means the Trust is doing the right thing.

The resilience project continues with the expansion of the team to 15 with additional staff for sites, education and outreach and gained funding for the next 2 years for resources and branding. Site interpretation will roll out, the education programme is building through workshops and wellbeing. Volunteering is another key project with current focus on Cornish hedging. The Awenek festival at Heligan was hugely successful with over 2,000 attendees and will be repeated.

In summary, the Trust is in rude health, going from strength to strength, but could not do this without the support it receives; thank you to you all: members, staff Trustees, sponsors, national heritage partners and the President who does a lot for the Trust.

Members asked if the Trust affiliated with other heritage associations, such as CASPN. Mrs Woolcock sits on the CASPN Committee, working with them through the Penwith Landscape Partnership; in addition, the Trust has close partnerships with many organisations including CREST, Gorsedh and The Federation of Old Cornwall Societies; a full list is on the website; heritage associations are stronger when working together.

4 Statement of Accounts to 31 March 2023

Mrs Woolcock thanked Walker Moyle for preparing the accounts when RRL could no longer offer their services due to their capacity. This year represented the first full year of working through the Business Development Plan (BDP) strategy following Covid restrictions. Volunteering, fundraising, membership and promotion were the main pillars of the programme alongside sites acquisition. Income from membership subscriptions this year increased to nearly 40% compared to the previous year, resulting in a total membership income of £63,626 compared to £45,533 the year before. The Trust has focussed on spreading income more evenly throughout the year. The new Membership Recruiter has attended numerous events and activities throughout Cornwall over the year which has also helped to broaden the Trust's promotional reach as well as signing-up new members. The result of the first full year following the BDP was a smaller deficit due to fundraising and membership increases.

Fundraising is a priority for income generation, project expenditure and organisational costs. Bids were successful with the pandemic emergency funding; Jubilee Funding through the National Lottery Community Fund which enabled the volunteering scheme and aided community activities, such as the beacon lightings; Historic England; Garfield Weston; and The Banister Charitable Trust, amongst others. This progress gave the Trust opportunities but most importantly it proves that the strategy and mission are attractive to funders.

The volunteering scheme is a strategic fundamental part of growing the work of the Trust and was relaunched and strengthened with the Trust's in-house sites management team, the Countryside Ranger and their Apprentice. Volunteers have helped run events; clear sites; manage car parking and provided office assistance.

The Story Café programme fulfilled the promotional element as did beacon lighting events at Sancreed and Castle an Dinas. The Schools Transport Grants remains popular; last year 81 trips were supported and 3,220 children benefited. Raising awareness of Cornwall's heritage and the work of the Trust is important which the team have worked hard to deliver.

This year took ownership of St Cleer's Well and following the Trust's interventions, it was removed from the Heritage At Risk Register. A key objective is to protect heritage sites that are at risk and so securing the funding for the Countryside Ranger enabled growth of the portfolio and bring the sites maintenance in-house for cost effectiveness. The Trust ran a Heritage Festival, have weekly volunteer groups, recruited more staff and secured over £500,000 in grants to date. The Trust is grateful to Simon and Barbara Maddison whose gift helped purchase Tregonning Hill. Prevalent when purchasing it was the number of people who said "thank you". The Trust is also grateful to all the members without whose support none of this would be possible. Whether a Trustee, staff, volunteer, member or donor all contribute and the Trust is grateful. The Trust's work means something: it makes memories, provides inspiration; reinforces a sense of place and can preserve and strengthen Cornwall's heritage.

5 **Report of the Accountants**

The accountant's report has been prepared by Walker Moyle in accordance with the Financial Reports, Statements and Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the accounts as at 31 March 23 of the Annual Report and unaudited Financial Statements.

Mr Williams reported on the main movements: the tangible fixed assets was the purchase of the Ford Ranger; the value of statements has dropped; debtors increased to grants; unrestricted funds at £111,000 included secured funding from elsewhere; a detailed overview of funding has already been discussed. **Members asked** how close the Trust is to approaching break even. Ms Thomas reported the investments made a difference this year of approx. £19K, the balance sheet is comparable to last year, there is more income and expenditure, gains and losses were significant. It is where the money is spent that is changing; before, reserves were used for fixed projects, now it is funded by grant applications enabling Trustees to consider using the money from investments in a different way, it is good to see a strong cash balance. The President thanked Mr Williams and Ms Thomas

for their report. The annual report and financial statements for year ended 31 March 2023 was signed by 2 Trustees.

6 Election of Accountants

Mrs Brotherton proposed and Mrs Carne seconded the appointment of Walker Moyle as accountants for 2024/2025. **All were in favour.**

7 Election of Trustees to the Council of Management of the Trust

Mrs Davey proposed and Mr Dickinson seconded that the following members of the Council of Management be re-elected: Mrs Clare Jacques, Mrs Helen Rawe, Lt Col Richard Trant, Mr Richard Farrant, Mr Peter Herring, Mr Alasdair Moore and Dr Garry Tregidga. Mrs Jacques and Mrs Rawe requested re-election on an annual basis. **All were in favour.**

8 Appointment of Officers to the Council of Management of the Trust

Mr Dickinson proposed and Ms Helen Musser seconded the following Trustees be appointed Officers of the Trust: Lt Col Richard Trant, Chairman; Mrs Alison Davey, Vice Chairman. **All were in favour.**

9 AOB

9.1 Presentation of Life Membership

The President presented Life Membership to Mr Nick Hunn in recognition of the many years of service as custodian of Trevanion Culverhouse and St Breock's Monolith. It was given with the grateful thanks of everyone at the Trust.

9.2 Members' Questions

9.2.1 Mr Webb has welcomed the Grand Bard of the Gorsedh to Canada but raised concerns over maintaining heritage links with an ageing membership. The President stated the diaspora is an important part of Cornwall's heritage and the Trust will engage with Mr Webb to see if there can be a collegiate effort to maintain links. Mrs Carne advised The Institute of Cornish Studies are putting together a list of Cornish diaspora making strong links. Mrs Brotherton suggested activities could be recorded for webinars. The chairman stated Story Cafes are already on the website and agreed that the social media team could take this further to uplift the profile.

9.2.2 Mr Cook asked what proportion of the membership is local. Ms Meyer reported it was 77%.

9.2.2 Mr Cook asked what future acquisitions were being considered. The chairman stated that the Trust does not want to advertise its intention due to competition on sites, with the exception of Tregonning Hill, which received huge support from the public. The Trust maintains a balance on acquisitions to ensure there is income and capacity to look after them.

9.2 A Review of the Year

The Marketing and Communications Officer shared a slide show of the events from last year; all sites and events have been published on the website.

10 Date and Time of Future Meetings

Date of the 38th Annual General Meeting 2023 to be advised.

The President thanked everyone for attending the AGM. The meeting closed at 12.01 pm.

Signed Date