



CORNWALL HERITAGE TRUST
Trest Ertach Kernow
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 10 November 2025 at 12 noon
at the Cornwall Museum & Art Gallery, River Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2SJ

Trustees Present: Col Edward Bolitho OBE (President), Lt Col Richard Trant (Chairman), Mrs Clare Jacques, Mrs Alison Davey, Mr Richard Farrant, Mrs Elizabeth Carne, Mr Matthew Dickinson

In Attendance: Mrs Cathy Woolcock (Trust CEO), Mr David Hastings (BK Plus Ltd), Mrs Kerry Horner (Clerk) and Ms Sophie Meyer (Engagement Manager).

Also Present: Full list of attendees in Appendix A.

- 1 **The President welcomed** all to the 40th AGM including those online and representation from Canada: Mr John Webb.

Apologies were received and a full list attached as Appendix B

- 2 **Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 39th AGM held 11 November 2024 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**

The Chairman reported that the Trust is strong, this year holding many celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary including a garden party at Trengwainton and a walk at Restormel Castle through the Duchy Nursery and Woods. The Chairman thanked everyone who visited the Royal Cornwall Show, the event was a huge success with the operational team putting in an amazing effort. The Trust is in the process of acquiring Castilly Henge which has recently undergone an archaeological dig and excavation to the site. The Trust benefitted from over 1,000 visitors attending the cultural heritage event, Awenek!, at Enys Gardens. Trustees conducted another strategic review to look to the future. The Trust's operations team is growing and working extremely hard on keeping sites and cultural narrative alive. Finance remains strong, even in these difficult times, the Trust has had significant levels of successful grant applications which allow the Trust to continue to do good works. **The Chairman thanked** the President, Trustees and Operational Staff for all their hard work and dedication to the Trust.

- 4 **Statement of Accounts to 31 March 2025**

The CEO thanked BK Plus Ltd for preparing the accounts and reported that income rose sharply last year and went over the £1million mark for the first time, prompting the first audit. Accounts have taken longer than anticipated and can be sent out by email to members on request. The reason for the increase in income largely relates to the successful applications for grants, some of which have been for significant sums. These projects enabled the Trust to establish its own in-house sites management team; equip and undertake capital projects to increase capacity for the sites; expand the education and engagement programme; and focus on the Trust's resilience and sustainability.

Last year was an exceptional year and signalled the culmination of intense activity aimed at building capacity for the charity. While the projects covered their costs the unrestricted income and expenditure show a deficit which was funded from reserves. Trustees have followed a policy of building capacity within the organisation in preparation for the 40th anniversary year and the increased number of sites in the Trust's care. The original Business Development Plan and "Resilience Project" were aimed towards ensuring sustainability and resilience in time for the 40th anniversary.

Compared to five years ago, when this process was started, the Trust is almost unrecognisable, having proven that its work is fundable and that funding can have a huge impact on the growth of an organisation. The Trust is working on the new strategic plan for the next five years and one of its key objectives is to ensure firm foundations for the charity. Trustees recognise that this needs to involve a mix of income generation initiatives which move away from a reliance on grant funding by introducing alternative income sources which will involve further investment by the charity but will result in the firmer foundations to which they aspire.

5 Report of the Accountants

The accountant's report has been prepared by BK Plus Ltd 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 25 of the Annual Report and audited Financial Statements.

Mr Hastings reported on the restricted and unrestricted income split on p13 of the accounts and the £141K deficit due to the promotion and investment in the education programme, plus unrestricted reserves are down by 5%. The Independent Auditors have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate and will continue for 12 months or more.

The President thanked Mr Hastings for his report. The annual report and financial statements for year ended 31 March 2025 was signed by two Trustees.

6 Special Resolution to change the Articles of Association (AfA)

The CEO explained that the Trust has been working alongside Stephens Scown to update the AfA for the limited company and registered charity which has involved:

- Updating some of the language to reflect the terminology used by the charity, for example, referring to the Board of Trustees as the "Council of

Management" and also making the pronouns throughout the document non-gender specific.

- The main purpose of the exercise was to review the "objects" of the charity, which effectively define the charitable purposes. This involved broadening their scope to reflect more clearly the work that is currently undertaken and the Trust's aspirations as outlined in the objects in section 2 of the revised document. Changes can be given in greater detail at members' request.
- The "Powers" of the charity in section 3 remain largely unchanged, with the exception of the reference to the Trust's Investment Policy in 3k.
- Termination of Membership in section 9e previously stated that a Trustee or director who resigned would no longer be a member; this was incorrect and has been amended.
- Section 11.3 has been adjusted to allow for online AGMs, it was changed during lockdown to provide for Council of Management meetings to be held virtually but the provision for AGMs was overlooked.
- The most relevant point today is the quorum required for AGMs in section 12.3. The wording in the original document being that 12 members are required or one-tenth of the membership, whichever is the greater. When this document was last reviewed there were approx. 300 members and so needed 30 people present, there are now 5,500 memberships which equates to over 12,000 members making a quorum an issue. The proposed amendment relies on a quorum of 12 people, therefore, this meeting is not quorate. The Trust is waiting for the Charity Commission to respond to the application for changes. It is not anticipated that there will be further changes to the document, members will be kept informed.

The President stated that should members find they have any further queries, they are encouraged to contact the Trust for further clarification.

Simon Maddison proposed and Clare Jacques seconded that pursuant to Charity Commission consent having been obtained in respect of all regulated alterations on 10 November 25, with effect from the conclusion of the meeting the draft articles of association produced to the meeting and, for the purposes of identification attached to this resolution be adopted as the articles of association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the Company's existing articles of association. The Trust recommended that a summary of the proposed changes is also presented to Members to accompany a copy of the revised Articles of Association. **All were in favour.**

7 Operations Report

The CEO reported on the operations over the last 12 months which included some of the 40th anniversary celebrations. Funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund allowed recruitment of a Projects Manager for sites, a part-time Ranger and two Level 2 Countryside Worker Apprentices, plus memberships and fundraising officers have also joined the team. The expansion of the education programme has been impressive, including: an Archaeology Safari with Humphry Davy School, nearly 50 schools workshops, engagement with over 2,200 school children and the delivery of workshops at Castilly Henge to over 300 people. The skills and training programmes are expanding the offer with sessions in Pit pottery, Bronze Age axe casting, wood carving and flint knapping. Outreach activities have included a workshop at Sancreed Beacon, Festival of

Archaeology activities, mini dig at Treffry and the annual Heritage Champion Awards. Engagement activity includes the popular Story Café programme.

The Trust received awards for the Youth Rangers scheme as well as recognition for the Lowena Project and Spend a Penny. The Trust is also incredibly proud of the recently qualified Level 4 Apprentice Ranger, who was awarded Apprentice of the Year at the Bridgwater-Taunton College Awards. The first *Pobel A Gernow* (People of Cornwall) heritage plaque was installed to commemorate Albert de Castro Glubb, a collaborative project with thanks to the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and Gorsedh Kernow. VE Day anniversary was marked by laying a wreath at the war memorial on Tregonning Hill; the Trust was honoured to be joined by Chris Finney, the youngest ever recipient of the George Cross.

The Trust was nominated one of the Royal Cornwall Show charities of the year this year and had 3 stands, including a display in the flower tent. **The CEO thanked** volunteers who braved the weather with collecting tins. The heritage festival, Awenek, moved to a new home at Enys Gardens.

One of the requirements of the Business Development Plan was to increase the number of historic sites and Cornwall Council have agreed to transfer ownership of five sites. Warbstow Bury and East Pentire Headland with a car park have transferred, the other sites will transfer in the next couple of months.

The sites team held Ranger Days at Trust sites with volunteers. Caer Bran was removed from the Heritage At Risk Register last November. Youth Rangers have learnt about hay making. The Practical Tasks Group visit West Penwith sites weekly to manage the historic places to enable continued public access. Castilly Henge is located above Innis Downs roundabout and is the subject of a recent fundraising appeal to purchase it. Over 700 people attended the Open Day event, 90 volunteers were marshalled and 300 people participated in on-site workshops, the Trust is grateful to Historic England and Cornwall Archaeological Society for making it so successful and enjoyable.

The Trust commissioned a special brazier to mark the 40th anniversary which travelled around each site and was lit by representatives from partner organisations. The brazier was used to light the last beacon at Sancreed Beacon as part of the midsummer beacon lighting. Grateful thanks to Edward and Alexandra Bolitho for holding a garden party celebration at Trengwainton. Throughout the year there have been many celebrations, events and activities for the 40th anniversary.

The latest Impact Report is available with a reminder that it's ten years since the Schools Transport Grant scheme started and the huge impact that it has had in that time. The Trust remains committed to the principles of its founder members to preserve and strengthen Cornwall's heritage, the Trust hope they would have been proud. **The CEO thanked** all staff, Trustees and volunteers who have made it possible as well as sponsors, members and supporters.

The president invited questions from members:

Members stated there have been wonderful educational aspects reported **and asked** if the younger generation are joining the Trust as members in their own

right. **The Engagement Manager reported** that under 18's are included in family membership who make up 50% of members, there is also for under 25's 25% concession with a growing amount of student memberships. **The Chairman stated** the Trust was excited to award the Annual Heritage Champion to a younger person who has also been effective in publicising the Trust online.

8 Election of Accountants

Richard Farrant proposed and Deborah Hinton seconded the appointment of BK Plus Ltd as accountants for 2026/2027. **All were in favour.**

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

Richard Farrant proposed and Alison Davey seconded that the following members of the Council of Management be re-elected:
Mrs Elizabeth Carne, Mr Matthew Dickinson and Mrs Clare Jacques (annual). **All were in favour.**

Mr Michael Johns was welcomed as a new Trustee who brings knowledge and expertise in management and financial business aspects. Clare Jacques proposed and Peggy Morris seconded the election of Mr Johns to the Council of Management of the Trust. **All were in favour.**

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

Simon Maddison proposed and Peggy Morris seconded the following Trustees be appointed Officers of the Trust: Lt Col Richard Trant, Chairman; Mrs Alison Davey, Vice Chairman. **All were in favour.**

**11 AOB
Acknowledgements**

Mrs Jacques, on behalf of all members, **thanked** Col Bolitho for his support and unfailing wise council and Lt Col Trant for his leadership to the Trust; their commitment means a lot to all of us.

12 Date and Time of Future Meetings

Date of the 41st Annual General Meeting 2026 to be advised.

The President thanked everyone for attending the AGM and stated that in line with sections 12.4 to 12.7 of the AfA this meeting will formally adjourn and another meeting will be called, when the response has been received from the Charity Commission, at which to formally ratify the business discussed today. The meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

Signed Date

APPENDIX ONE – ATTENDEES

Ian Gethin
Dympna Gethin
Harriet Nott
Carol Richardson-Bunbury
Alison Davey
Peggy Morris
Andrew Beggs
Ann Bishop
Jacquie Price
Melissa Weir
Tamsin Wright
David Parker
Ian Young
Phil Young
Stephen Szweda
Clare Jacques
Joe Jacques
David Hastings
Deborah Hinton
Andrew Wright
Ruth Gilbert
Clement De Souza
Davina Haydon
John Griffin
Peter Seabrook
Alex Seabrook
Barbara Maddison
Jane Bellamy
Nigel Brett
Patricia Roberts
Jeannie Cain
Jacky Clift
Mcdermott Evans
Steve Hobden
Joan Love
C J Pearson
Sally Brocklehurst
Joy Coot
Andrew Coot
Lorraine Evans
David Evans
Jan Connolly

Vincent Connolly
Alan Bourne
Claire Weeks
Hugh Weeks
Hilary Brett
Colin Roberts
Audrey Taylor
W McCartney
Jane Squire
Mike Squire
Graham Jones
Simon Maddison
Lesley Birks
Jan Lumley

APPENDIX TWO – APOLOGIES

Peter Herring
Michael Johns
Ann Preston Jones