



World Heritage UK

**WORLD HERITAGE UK**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at  
The Banqueting Suite, New Armouries, Tower of London**

DRAFT Minutes

Attendees: Tony Crouch, Kate Lynch, Deborah Boden, Adam Lathbury, Jane Gibson, Jenny Bruce, Paul Simons, Roland Evans, Natasha Downie, Anna Brennand, Sam Rose, Stephen Ratcliffe, Lesley Woodbridge, Justin Scully, Max Bryant, Paige Hughes, Peter Marsden, Georgina Darroch, Catherine McClymont, Elizabeth Christopher, Rebecca Hartley, Lorna Harper, Julian Cooper, Sarah Simmonds, Allan Forrest, Val Turner, Mairi Lock, Brandi Hall, Don Gobbett, Helen Daniels, Andrew Williams, Stephen Osgood, Anja Domnick, Mary Worrall, Liz Mann, Lesley Garlick, David Holroyd, Gillian Clarke, Ian Wray, Beth Thomas, Chris Mahon.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Barry Lewis - Derbyshire County Council (and Steering Group: Derwent Valley Mills), Nicola Lowery – Trustee, WH UK.

1. Tony Crouch, Chair of World Heritage UK welcomed everyone to the AGM.
2. The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Ironbridge Gorge were agreed as a correct record. Proposed: Jane Gibson, seconded: Sam Rose.
3. The Trustees annual report was approved, together with the Treasurer's report and the Independent Examiner's report (IER). Proposed: David Holroyd, seconded: Paul Simons.
4. The Report on the Amendments to the Constitution was agreed. Proposed: Jane Gibson, seconded: Paul Simons.

This results in the following additions to the Constitution: i) That an addition is made to Clause 30 of the Constitution "Interpretation", as (2) to read as follows: *'The length of the term of office of WH UK CIO Trustees is three years'*. And ii) That a new paragraph is inserted into Clause 19 "Meetings and Proceedings of charity trustees" as section 2, as follows: *(2) Officers of the Board(a) The Board shall appoint a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and any other position it deems necessary to fulfil its duties, from amongst the Trustees. (b) The appointments will normally be for a term of three years and renewable only once, to a maximum of six years in total. An Officer may be re-appointed after an interval of at least two years.* The subsequent paragraphs in Clause 19 are to be re-numbered.

5. Re-election of Trustees. Under the provisions of the Constitution four (or one third) of the members of the Board will retire and offer themselves for re-election. They are Max Bryant, Gill Clarke, Lesley Garlick and Ian Wray. Proposed: Jane Gibson, seconded: Rebecca Hartley. The re-election was agreed.
6. The Chairman's Report was received. It is appended to these Minutes.
7. There were no other reports, and no other business.

Gill Clarke

Secretary: World Heritage UK

Appendix

### **Chair of Trustees Report 2018**

I took on the office of Chairman in Spring this year and this is therefore my first annual report. It focuses on performance over the financial year 2017/2018, but also summarises for our members our past and present performance.

In business planning terms our evolution can be divided into four stages. The first was the formation of WH:UK in 2015, changing from the Local Authority World Heritage Forum (LAWHF) to become a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The second phase was establishment, finding our role as an organisation and within the sector. The third, which is where I see our current position as being, is consolidation. We have our place in the sector, we have a fully functioning, fit for purpose and financially viable organisation and we need to ensure we are stable and invaluable. So the fourth

stage, which is as far ahead as we can currently see, is to build greater stability, resilience and sustainability. We need to increase our membership base, we need greater financial security and we need to complete and hone the policies and procedures already in place.

To add a little more detail, as I recently said in my message to all members, making the transition from LAWHF to WH:UK was the right thing to do at the right time. The work required for this set-up should not be underestimated and our thanks and appreciation go to my predecessor Chair Dr Sam Rose, who stepped down earlier this year. It was Sam who drove this process, got us established and up and running. We have bestowed upon him the grand title of 'Past and Founder Chair' as a unique token of heartfelt appreciation for his work.

As you may know, we work with a board of 12 voluntary trustees. The board membership shows an almost equal split between those working at the coal-face of World Heritage and those who have retired. In my view this is a healthy balance, with direct and current daily experience of work issues matched with wise heads who may have a little more time to offer. All trustees offer their time for free and the level of positivity in board meetings is remarkable.

The second stage of establishment quickly followed the first. We put in place all the requisite policies and plans, we held meetings with other organisations in the sector to ensure we were complementing and not replicating what others were doing, and we set our aims of Networking, Advocacy and Promotion. We established the annual calendar of events including networking meetings, technical events and an annual conference.

The degree to which WH:UK was accepted by the sector in my opinion demonstrates the market gap into which we stepped and underlines the rationale for establishing the organisation. Public funding is still diminishing and we have found government(s) to be very happy to work with us as a delivery organisation to implement the UNESCO convention. In the days of LAWHF, getting to see the minister was mostly an ambition, but now I am pleased to say it is a regular event and we were delighted that Minister Michael Ellis kindly gave the opening speech at the conference. The Dept. of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport were also in receipt of a UNESCO recommendation (resulting from the 2017 Westminster Mission) to put in place a 'joint committee of all World Heritage properties in the UK to allow for a better understanding of common problems and a means of developing innovative solutions'. WH:UK were happy to be named as the body delivering this and the UK now has an organisation to match many other national associations seen across Europe.

Following on from the above, we undoubtedly have a world class heritage sector in the UK but it can be fragmented. One of the small but significant steps made last year was the production of a map showing all UK World Heritage sites. Other countries such as Hungary have been able to offer this for many years whilst the UK could not. This is prime example of how WH:UK fulfils its role, which is not replicating what individual members do but providing an umbrella organisation and creating a better climate in which all can flourish.

Here are some of other the headlines with regard to work undertaken in 2017/18:

- July 2017: A members meeting took place in New Lanark. The theme was "Running the Business of World Heritage" and was supported by the New Lanark Trust and Heritage Environment Scotland.
- October 2017: The annual conference was held at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and run in partnership with the International Institute of Cultural Heritage and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. The four-day event, attracted significant student participation.

- March 2018: A technical meeting was held at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on the theme of “Sharing Best Practice”. The meeting was supported by RBG Kew.
- All these events were well supported by the membership and achieved positive feedback.
- Trustee Don Gobbett has completed the “Position Statement on Planning and World Heritage” which has been published following last year’s member workshop in Bath.
- Using the Planning Statement, a response was made to the English NPPF Consultation (announced March 2018). We believe we were the only professional organisation to respond from the WH perspective and bodies such as the Royal Town Planning Institute and Institute of Historic Building Conservation did not. This underlines that WH UK is the only organisation in the UK which represents all of our 31 World Heritage Sites.
- We continue to respond to government and agency consultations wherever appropriate. We took part in the Technical Review Panel of forthcoming Tentative List sites and the UK Government’s proposals for a ‘Soft Power’ strategy.
- In advance of this year’s WH committee we issued a statement on Liverpool. It was aimed at encouraging a solution to be found, and for us it was dipping a toe in controversial waters. The reaction was generally positive.
- We (gently!) raised the membership fee this year as part of our consolidation actions. We realise the difficult financial pressure many of our member organisations are under, but this was the first rise for over 10 years and we have seen no adverse reaction.
- In advance of many larger organisations, we grasped the new GDPR regulations and ensured we had a policy and procedure in place by the requisite date.

One work element I have separated out from the list is the Review of all sites currently being finalised by our president, Chris Blandford. It is a major body of work and the first time that such an in-depth analysis and comparison of all sites has been undertaken. This will be a key piece of evidence in helping us work for improvement. We thank the many sponsors for their financial backing of this and aim to deliver it before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. I would also say that appointing Chris as president was an inspired move by the Board (!). We deliberated about whether to chase a famous face or a leading practitioner. We decided upon a ‘doer’ rather than a celebrity and without overly-embarrassing Chris he has delivered an outstanding amount of doing. This has included visiting Bermuda as part of the review at his own expense and subsequently welcoming them as members of WH:UK. He was also responsible for the map I mentioned above. He has forged links with the European World Heritage Sites Association and attended several meetings. So we thank Chris for his significant endeavours and whilst the rest of the country waits to see what post-Brexit Britain will look like, WH:UK are firmly committed to the global UNESCO family and heritage Britain is, in our view, very much open for business.

To finish by looking forward, we need to strive for sustainability as an organisation. I have painted an accurate and upbeat picture of achievements, but there is much still to do. We are a fledgling organisation, working on around £30k a year which just about funds a paid part-time Development Director and Finance Manager. We need to work a little less ‘hand to mouth’ and secure more income. We also need to strengthen our governance structure, our policies and business planning, our fundraising skills and activities, and our communications and marketing. Our immediate plan to address this is by a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their ‘Resilient Heritage’ programme. That bid will be submitted imminently. There are of course no guarantees in this bid process, but we are a really good fit for the criteria.

So it has been a busy and productive year, with successful events and now with a high-profile conference at the Tower of London with over 100 delegates. We already have an exciting programme of events lined up for next year, including a Spring workshop on youth involvement in Blaenavon and an Autumn conference at Pontcysyllte Adequct. It is a happy position for me as Chairman to be able to report that we know where we are heading, both literally and figuratively, but it is something I can say with confidence.

It just remains for me to thank our two employees for consistently working above and beyond what is asked of them, our partners and sponsors who we have worked with across the year, my fellow trustees and President and all our members for your ongoing positive engagement. We are and always will be a membership organisation, so please do not hesitate to tell us how we are performing and where we can help.

**Tony Crouch**

Chair of Trustees: World Heritage UK