

**WORLD HERITAGE UK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10.00 Wednesday 4th December 2024**

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Voting Members:

Julian Cooper	Blenheim Palace WHS	Sarah France	Studley Royal & Fountains Abbey WHS
Adrian Neilson	City of Bath WHS	Mairi Lock	The English Lake District WHS
Marion Harney	City of Bath WHS	Brigid Primrose	The Flow Country WHS
Sally Weston	Cornish Mining WHS		
Adrian Farmer	Derwent Valley Mills WHS		
Anne Allen	Durham Castle & Cathedral WHS	Paul Simons	WHUK Chair
Neil Rainey	Giant's Causeway WHS	Ashleigh Taylor	Blaenavon WHS / WHUK Treasurer
Andrew Gittens	Ironbridge Gorge WHS	Lesley Garlick	WHUK Secretary
Jenny Bruce	Old & New Towns of Edinburgh WHS	Amanda Chadburn	WHUK Trustee
Lynda Slater	Pontcysyllte Aqueduct & Canal WHS	Tony Crouch	Great Spa Towns of Europe WHS / WHUK Trustee
Brandi Hall-Crossgrove	Saltaire WHS / WHUK Trustee	Henry Owen-John	WHUK Trustee
Claire Selman	Stonehenge & Avebury WHS	Steve Ratcliffe	The English Lake District WHS / WHUK Trustee
George Downs	Stonehenge & Avebury WHS	Justin Scully	Studley Royal & Fountains Abbey WHS / WHUK Trustee

Non-Voting Members and Guests:

Graham Thompson	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	Chris Blandford	WHUK President
Mark Watson	Forth Bridge WHS / Historic Environment Scotland	Jane Gibson	WHUK Board Member
Janet Hopton	York	Alex McCoskrie	WHUK General Manager
Graham U'ren	Individual Member	Natashia Mattocks	WHUK Finance Manager
Adam Wilkinson	Guest		

Apologies:

Kate Lapping	New Lanark WHS	Barry Gamble	WHUK Trustee
Teresa Anderson	Jodrell Bank WHS / WHUK Trustee	Max Bryant	WHUK Trustee

1. Welcome

Paul Simons, Chair of WHUK, welcomed members to the AGM and thanked them for attending.

2. Minutes of WHUK AGM 2023

The draft minutes of the AGM held on 6th December 2023 had been circulated.

The Resolution to agree the draft Minutes of the 2023 AGM as a correct record, was proposed by Brandi Hall-Crossgrove and seconded by Ashleigh Taylor and was carried unanimously.

3. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts.

The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts which includes the Treasurer's Report and the Independent Examiner's Report has been circulated to the membership. This is the report that will be sent to the Charity Commission and uploaded to its website. The Chair summarised the activities of WHUK during 2023/24 and thanked all staff and the Trustees for their input. Ashleigh Taylor, WHUK's Treasurer, outlined the financial position.

The Resolution to receive the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2023/24 was proposed by Steve Ratcliffe and seconded by Tony Crouch. The Resolution was agreed unanimously.

4. Membership Fees for 2024/25

The Treasurer introduced the report which had been circulated and explained the reasoning behind the proposed increases which in future will be related to the September CPI figure each year. The recommendation from the Board is that fees for 2024/25 should be increased to £790 for Voting Members, £410 for Associate Members and no change at £40 for Individual Members.

The Resolution to approve the recommendations as stated in the report, was proposed by Amanda Chadburn and seconded by Henry Owen-John, and was agreed unanimously.

5. Proposed Change to the WHUK Constitution

The Chair introduced the report which had been circulated and explained the reasoning behind the amendment to Clause 16 in order not to lose experienced Trustees with specific skills essential to the Board, while retaining an acceptable turnover of new Trustees each year. Henry Owen-John commented that the Board should be seeking younger and more diverse Trustees.

The Resolution to revise the wording of Clause 16 stated in the report was proposed by Ashleigh Taylor and seconded by Adrian Neilson and was agreed unanimously.

6. Trustee Elections

Under the CIO's Constitution a proportion of the Trustees must step down each year but are eligible for re-election for a further 3-year term if they have not served three terms. Three of the present Trustees are stepping down, two of whom having fulfilled their three terms, and one will be seeking re-election, so there are three Trustee places on the Board to be determined. Nominations were invited from the membership for persons that may like to stand for election and Lesley Garlick, WHUK Secretary, reported that nominations have been received from Justin Scully a current Board Member, and from two new candidates, Graham Thompson and Adam Wilkinson. Candidates have issued an election statement which have been circulated to the membership. As there are three vacancies, a simple vote to elect all three candidates is sufficient. In response to a question from Graham U'ren, it was confirmed that no absentee votes had been received.

The Resolution to elect all three candidates to the Board was proposed by Ashleigh Taylor and seconded by Henry Owen-John. That is Justin Scully is elected to the Board for his second three-year term, and that Graham Thompson and Adam Wilkinson are elected for their initial three-year term.

The Chair welcomed the new Trustees to the Board.

7. World Heritage UK Business Plan 2025-2028

The Chair introduced the draft Business Plan covering the three years from 2025/26. He drew particular attention to the need to sustain the core work of providing training and development opportunities for the membership through events, and the three strategic aims of advocacy, sector development, and engagement and communications, and the resources needed to achieve these. Increasing membership is key to an improved funding position.

Anne Allen commented that to be relevant in making funding applications, the Plan needs to refer to university research and capacity building. The Plan will be adopted by the Board at its meeting on 30th January and any further comments should be sent to Alex McCoskrie by 17th January 2025.

8. Any Other Business

There were no questions or points raised by the meeting.

The Chair thanked all the members for their commitment and support and wished everyone a good Christmas and New Year break. The AGM closed at 10.45.