



**FRIENDS OF MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE**  
**Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting**

Held at 11am on Saturday 9th November 2024 at the Manx Museum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas

**Present:**

Mr. M Crowe (Chairman FMNH)  
Mrs. V Fayle (Director FMNH)  
Mr. H Shimmin (Treasurer FMNH)  
Mrs. M Bridson (Director FMNH)  
Miss. A Moore (Director FMNH)  
Mr. I Young (Director FMNH)  
Mrs. E Morter (Company Secretary, FMNH)  
Mrs. C Lovel (Executive Director, Manx National Heritage)  
And 23 other members

**1. Notice convening the meeting and Apologies for absence.**

Mr. Crowe welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Crowe chaired the meeting as the person who has been appointed to chair the meetings of the directors. He asked if members were content that he be appointed as Chairman of the meeting. **The Meeting agreed.**

14 apologies had been received

**2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th November 2023,** had been made available to members and taken as read. No questions were raised. The minutes were proposed by Mr. Michael Goodman and seconded by Mrs. Karen Goodman and were **approved by the meeting.**

**3. Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman's report had been made available on the FMNH website and was taken as read. Mr. Crowe spoke about recent funding provided to Manx National Heritage for osteological research following the conclusion of the Round Mounds Project and for the purchase of five debit/credit card reader devices. Mr. Crowe also thanked Friends volunteers who have helped at MNH events this year including the very successful Heritage Open Days and Hop Tu Naa, as well as the regular gardening volunteers. Also mentioned was the final Friends members' event of 2024, a talk about Manx Christmas traditions to be held in December at the Manx Museum.

**4. Report from Manx National Heritage.**

Connie Lovel (Executive Director of Manx National Heritage) thanked Colin Cowie (MNH Technician) for his support at the AGM and gave apologies from Mr. Jonathan Hall, Chairman of the MMNT Trustees who could not attend the meeting. Mrs. Lovel gave a wide-ranging presentation on the recent and forthcoming activities of MNH. MNH are a registered charity and working hard to generate the additional revenue needed to cover the shortfall in the government grant, which has been reduced by 50% over the last decade.

Mrs. Lovel spoke about the reopening of the Art Gallery - FMNH funded conservation and re-framing of some artworks as well as the original purchase of some art and sculpture. Other topics covered were Learning and Outreach activities; a silver ingot and Viking age coins found by detectorists and declared treasure; the osteological research being funded by FMNH; the patination of the Capt. Quilliam sculpture after vandalism; exciting new publications on iMuseum; the acquisition of the Crellin coins, underwritten by FMNH; acquisition of the Shoprite archives and internment art; the Michael Sandle book launch; Manx Wildlife Week; the Martin Parr 'Tynwald Week' exhibition; the Manx Olympians exhibition; Magical Worlds in Miniature at the Grove; Heritage Open days; the visit of HRH the Princess Royal; the new Julia Ashby Smyth exhibition; Destination Viking; and gardening projects.

The plans for the new shop, visitor hub and staff welfare unit at Laxey Wheel are currently out for public engagement and it is hoped that the building will be in place for the 2025 season.

Current and recent maintenance projects include Phase 2 conservation at Laxey Wheel; repairs to the Castle Rushen clock tower; the dairy roof at Rushen Abbey; conservation and renovation of Calf View at Cregneash to provide heritage holiday accommodation; and works on the Calf. Two FMNH volunteers have been helping with drystone walling on the Calf, for which Mrs. Lovel expressed her thanks.

Mrs. Lovel thanked FMNH for their continued financial support with projects including replacement of signage and technology, displays and staging, and FMNH volunteers for their hard work.

Mr. Crowe thanked Mrs. Lovel for her wide-ranging report of events over the last year.

## 5. Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Harley Shimmin gave his report.

### INCOME

**Subscriptions** – the figures shown in the Balance Sheet, considering deferred income, show an increase of c£3,000 over last year. Annual subscriptions are up by c£6,000 but 10-year subscriptions are down by £3,000, Life down by £1,500 and Corporates down by £5,000.

**Deposit Interest** – FMNH benefitted from the improvement in interest rates. MNH only called on our support late in the financial year, thus enabling an increase in interest of c£22,000.

**Donations** – we were very fortunate last year to receive two donations of £10,000. A further £10,000 has been donated in this latest financial year.

**Events** – several events have been held this year.

### EXPENDITURE

**Heritage Awards** - £1,394.40 Quayle family portraits; £6,320 Viking coin collection; £45,000 replace/repair equipment; £15,000 stacker truck; £10,000 Art Gallery Rehang; £1,000 contactless devices.

**Post, print, Stationery, Sundries** – Last year we had one-off costs of advertising for a new administrator and larger computer expenses.

**Personnel Fees** – Hayley and Emma both work fewer hours than Nicola did – hence the reduction.

**Insurance** – the premium is similar to last year.

**Event Costs** – only shown cost is a ticket refund.

**Subscription Collection Charges** – Paypal is similar to last year and Access Paysuite is slightly down.

### ASSETS

**Deferred Income** – This is in relation to our Subscription Income with £44,994 due within the present financial

*The Friends of Manx National Heritage / Caarjyn Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin*

PO Box 55, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM99 IAE

Tel: 07624 243806 • Email: [info@fmnh.im](mailto:info@fmnh.im) • Web: [www.friendsofmnh.org](http://www.friendsofmnh.org)

Company registered in the Isle of Man No 122324C – Charity No 1027

year and £47,507 relating to 10 year and Life subscriptions which are taken into our accounts over the next ten years.

**Bank Balances** – remain healthy and slightly up on last year.

**Committed Funds** - £500,000 Nautical Museum; £8,000 generators for the Calf; £5,000 Horticulture; £10,000 Rushen Abbey herb beds; £10,000 patination of the Watcher; £10,000 osteological research; £1,000 contactless payment devices.

In conclusion, Mr. Shimmin thanked the FMNH Directors, especially Michael Crowe and Mary Bridson and Emma Morter for their support. He thanked Phaedra Bird and Chloe Macdonald at Crowe Isle of Man LLC for their help in the preparation of the accounts and for their guidance and advice.

Mr. Crowe then informed the meeting of the current membership figures at 30/9/24 in comparison to the previous 12 months and there had been an overall increase of 135.

6. A resolution to adopt the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was proposed by Mr. Richard Green and seconded by Jane Hall. **The Meeting approved the resolution.**
7. A resolution to increase the Membership Fees from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 was proposed by Mr. Michael Goodman and seconded by Mr. Ian Young. **The Meeting approved the resolution.**

Category	Current Price	Proposed Price After Increase
Single annual member	£40	£45
Additional annual member	£30	£35
Child member	£6	No increase
10 Year member	£400	£425
10 Year additional member	£255	£275
Life member	£1250	No increase
Corporate member	£35	£40
Corporate additional adult member	£25	£30
Corporate child member	£5	No increase

There was a question from the floor about the reason for increasing the membership fees – Mr. Michael Crowe answered saying that it was required in order to meet future commitments.

Jane Hall suggested FMNH consider offering a Family Membership subscription option. It was agreed that this will be considered at a future Board meeting of the directors.

## 8. Election of Directors.

Mr. Ian Young and Mr. Harley Shimmin resigned their positions as Directors by rotational rule and offered themselves for re-election to the Board.

Mr. Young and Mr. Shimmin were proposed by Mr. Richard Green and Seconded by Mr. Michael Goodman. **The meeting approved the resolution.**

**9. Appointment of Auditor.**

Mr. Harley Shimmin proposed Crowe Isle of Man LLC for reappointment, seconded by Mr. Ian Young. **The meeting approved the resolution.**

**10. Any Other Business.**

Mr. Dave Martin, on behalf of the Trustees of the Manx Museum and National Trust, thanked the Friends of Manx National Heritage for their work.

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.06 pm.**

**Mr. Crowe thanked everyone for attending.**

DRAFT