FRIENDS OF MANX NATIONAL HERITAGE

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting

Held at 11am on Saturday 8th November 2025 at the Manx Museum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas

Present:

Mr. M. Crowe (Chairman FMNH)

Mrs. V. Fayle (Director FMNH)

Mr. H. Shimmin (Treasurer FMNH)

Ms. A. Moore (Director FMNH)

Mr. I. Young (Director FMNH)

Mrs. E. Morter (Company Secretary, FMNH)

Mrs H. Murphy (Administrator and Development Officer, FMNH)

Mrs. C. Lovel (Executive Director, Manx National Heritage)

And 20 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 9th November 2024, 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 Mr. Dave Martin 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 to assist with their projects. Mr. Crowe also spoke about the many donations FMNH received in memory of former Friends Board Member and Manx Museum and National Trust Trustee Martin Moore MBE, who passed away earlier this year. Emma Morter was thanked for the programme of FMNH events

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organised in 2025 and members were thanked for their support in buying tickets and attending these. Mr. Crowe expressed his gratitude to retiring Board member Ms. Alison Moore for her contribution to the work of FMNH and thanked his fellow Directors, especially Mrs. Mary Bridson, the Membership Secretary and Mr. Harley Shimmin, the Treasurer, for their support.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Harley Shimmin gave his report.

INCOME

Subscriptions - the figures shown in the balance sheet, considering deferred interest, show an increase of c.£6,000. Annual subscriptions are up by c.£3,000 and ten-year subscriptions are up by c.£6,600. Life have stayed the same and Corporates are up by £2,000.

Deposit Interest - Similar to last year at £33,000, gaining from large balances being retained for most of the year.

Donations - we have again been very fortunate and grateful to receive £20,000 from a generous and regular benefactor. Other sums include £1,880 in memory of Martin Moore, £550 legacy, £250 from Lloyds and sundry amounts relating to donations for lost cards and donations at events.

Events - There has been a wide variety of events this year and some members are also adding an extra donation at an events.

EXPENSES

Heritage Awards - £10,000 Osteological survey and report; £5,000 planting at Museum; £3,740 generator for Calf; £5,419 purchase of coin collection; £10,000 repatination of Watcher; £500 contactless hand-held payment device; £28,000 Calf View holiday accommodation; £31,000 Round Mounds Archaeological excavations and £10,000 stove repairs at Church Farm Cregneash.

Post, print, stationery, sundries – Just under £7,000.

Personnel Fees – this cost has increased this year as the Tax Office has ruled that Emma Morter is not self-employed. This decision has incurred extra costs with National Insurance and back payments.

Event Costs – Because most of our events take place at the Museum, we do not usually incur costs. However, this year one of the events was unfortunately cancelled and we had to refund the charges.

Subscription Collection Charges – Increased quite considerably this year from £1,818 to £3,017. Whilst increased charges are probably the main cause, part of the reason is that members are no longer paying their subscriptions direct to us, but rather though PayPal, Easipay or SumUp.

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ASSETS

Deferred Income – This figure of £88,957 is in relation to Subscription income with £42,095 due within the present financial year and £46,862 relating to ten-year and Life subscriptions, which we take into our accounts over the next ten years.

Bank Balances – Slightly up on last year at just over £730,000, but even after taking into account the present agreed commitments, we still see a very healthy position.

Committed Funds - £500,000 Nautical Museum; £31,000 archaeological excavation; £28,000 Calf View; £18,000 Laxey Wheel; £25,000 4WD Kubota; £10,000 Church Farm; £12,000 National Treasures exhibition.

In conclusion, Mr. Shimmin thanked the FMNH Directors, especially Michael Crowe and Mary Bridson and Emma Morter for their support. He thanked Phaedra Bird, Chloe Macdonald and Ryan Staunton at Crowe Isle of Man LLC who have been very helpful as usual in the preparation of the accounts.

In response to a question from Mr. Mark Wilson about the increase in income from subscriptions and whether this was due to price increases, Mr. Crowe then informed the meeting of the current membership figures at 30/9/25 in comparison to the previous 12 months, and there had been an overall increase of 135. Mr. Wilson suggested that members should be better informed of Manx National Heritage projects and acquisitions funded by FMNH. It was agreed that better communication of these would be made in future.

	30 Sept 2024	**30 Sept 2025**	**07 Nov 2025**
Manx annual	2064	2062	2071
Manx Life	1555	1541	1541
Manx 10 year	439	423	426
Off Island annual	79	79	79
Off Island life	267	260	264
Off Island 10 year	10	8	8
Corporates	349	205	205
Total	**4763**	**4578**	**4594**

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5. A resolution to adopt the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025 was proposed by Mr. Ian Young and seconded by Mr. Richard Green. **The Meeting approved the resolution.**

6(1) Election of Directors.

Mr. Michael Crowe and Mrs. Mary Bridson resigned their positions as Directors by rotational rule and offered themselves for re-election to the Board.

Mr. Crowe and Mrs. Bridson were proposed by Mrs. Karen Goodman and seconded by Mr. Dave Martin. **The meeting approved the resolution.**

6(2) The retirement of Ms. Alison Moore as Director of FMNH was noted.

7. Appointment of Auditor.

Mr. Harley Shimmin asked that Crowe Isle of Man LLC be reappointed as auditors. This was proposed by Mr. Richard Green and seconded by Mr. Ian Young. **The meeting approved the resolution.**

8. Report from Manx National Heritage.

Mrs. Connie Lovel (Executive Director of Manx National Heritage) 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 and rise to the challenge of financial resilience. She thanked FMNH for their financial support.

Mrs. Lovel spoke about exhibitions over the last year including: 'Rare Sightings and Urban Faeries'; '6 Ways of Seeing'; 'Leonard McCombe'; and the phenomenally successful Archibald Knox exhibition, which has generated worldwide interest. The newly opened 'National Treasures' exhibition at the House of Manannan has received financial support from FMNH and MNH's Museums Accreditation has meant that they have been able to secure items on loan from the British Museum. Mrs. Lovel also spoke about: the Buerk Farm jet necklace; the Learning and Outreach work of the Education Team; a visit by Honda Europe; rare Viking gold found by a metal detectorist and declared Treasure; recent acquisitions; and Heritage Open Days, for which FMNH provided volunteer stewards. FMNH has also contributed to the purchase of new entomology cabinets, the conservation of 'The Watcher' sculpture and the refurbishment for holiday lets of Calf View at Cregneash.

Mrs. Lovel outlined some of MNH's current and future activities and plans for income generation including roof repairs to Knockuskey Cottage at Niarbyl; the reinstatement of the Niarbyl Café; conservation of the Castle Rushen clock; holiday letting of Calf View at Cregneash; gardening

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work at the Grove, Rushen Abbey and Cregneash, and upgrades to the supply of drinking water on the Calf.

Mrs. Lovel noted the main sources of income generation for Manx National Heritage as: commercial operations; visitor admissions; residential and commercial letting; events, retail and promotions; legacies and donations; fundraising; sponsorships; grants or funding bids to grant giving bodies and an Isle of Man Government grant. The organisation currently has a critical maintenance backlog of 3.8 million.

Mr. Crowe thanked Mrs. Lovel for her interesting presentation.

9. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

Mr. Crowe mentioned that Emma Morter will be leaving FMNH shortly and thanked her for her valuable contribution to the running of the charity. He welcomed Hannah Murphy as her replacement and thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.05 pm.

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