



BEAMINSTER MUSEUM TRUST

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 in the Museum

The Chairman welcomed everybody and reminded them that in accordance with the Constitution, as Friends of the Beaminster Museum. they are the electorate of both the Trustees and the Management Committee and their support was essential for the functioning of the Museum charity.

Apologies: Apologies for absence had been received from 10 Friends

Present: 24 Friends were present, making the meeting quorate.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting:** The Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on 23rd January 2024, having been duly proposed and seconded, were approved. There were no matters arising not otherwise covered in the Agenda.
- 2. Chairman of the Trustees Report:** Having reminded the meeting of the present Trustees and the requirement for re-election after a three-year term, Alec Crawford (AC) summarised the Trustees responsibilities to the Charities Commission and their responsibilities in respect of finance and the buildings, AC noted that the accounts for the year ended 4th November 2024 had shown a small deficit, primarily due to the increase in electricity costs. He drew attention to the major projects in hand in respect of the buildings, namely dealing with the rot found under the floor adjacent to the stairs to the Chesterman Room, extending under the kitchen floor, and the necessary repairs to the stained-glass windows. Furthermore, there is a plan to redesign the entrance and reception area to make them more appealing and to better use space available. AC mentioned that the three projects could cost in the order of £75,000 for which a major appeal was being considered about which more detail would be described later.

Finally AC drew attention to the Trustees responsibility for maintaining the Trust's Policy and Governance Documents, copies of which are available in a folder in the reception desk, and on the website.

- 3. Management Committee Chairman's Report:** Matthew Kirkman (MK) thanked a number of individuals who have made significant contributions to the success of the Museum in the past year including Richard and Helen Smith, Bid and Alistair Wheeler, Sarah Drinnan, Gill Sansom, Linda Le Breton, Kathey Heaney, and Jonathan Fairchild who was leading on dealing with the rot problems. He referred to the success of the new self service donation point through which nearly £1,000 had been raised.

MK highlighted the Broadwindsor Bronze Age gold strip which had been obtained as a result of grants from the V&A and Beecroft bequest and also a donation. In respect of the possible redesign of the front entrance and

reception area, a firm that has worked for both Lyme Regis and Bridport Museums had been approached.

At MK's request, Richard Smith (RS) outlined possible fund raising sources to cover the three building projects and also the cost of the necessary secure cabinet to house the recently obtained Bronze Age gold strip. Whilst there are numerous sources that can be approached for funds, RS stressed that Friends and their personal contacts could be an important source and he is looking for somebody with experience in fund raising to assist with approaches to possible sources as well as sponsors and setting up Crowdfunding. A key point is that if we can show engagement with 5000 members of the public during the year we should become eligible for a council grant of £5000 for Operating costs.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Linda le Bretton (LB) highlighted the donation given in memory of Pam Lemmey, a founder member and Trustee of the Museum, and for other donations. Visitor donations totalled a record £2,768 largely due to the success of the new donation point and £692 had been received in Gift Aid as well as a grant of £838 from the Royal Society towards the cost of a 3-D Scanner. Proceeds from shop sales increased largely due to reduced re-stocking costs, and winter fund raising events were again a great success. LB expressed concern that energy costs were more than double the previous year leading to an overall deficit of nearly £3,000 and it is likely that energy costs, despite benefiting from a lower rate from a different supplier, will lead to a deficit in the current year. Total funds at the end of the financial year were £20,030. Finally LB confirmed that Colin Schofield had agreed to continue as Examiner.
5. **Election of Trustees:** Colin Bowditch, having completed a three-year term, offered himself for re-election and, having been proposed and seconded, was duly re-elected

6. **. Election of Officers and Management Committee:**

The following having agreed to stand and, having been duly proposed and seconded, were unanimously elected for the following year:

Chairman:	Matthew Kirkman
Vice Chairman:	Richard Smith
Hon Treasurer:	Linda le Bretton
Hon Secretary:	Amanda Fairchild
Members	Alec Crawford Karen Heaney Janice Pryke

7. **Any other business:**

Ann Hudson requested that somebody else take over her role of gardener, particularly keeping the area at the entrance free from weeds etc.

Robin Cheeseman asked for confirmation that on completion of the extension, the work had been signed off by the County Surveyor as required by Building Regulations. Whilst an immediate answer could not be given, Robin subsequently confirmed that this had been done, as was required by the Lottery in closing out their funding.

MK mentioned an approach from an organisation looking for storage space for artefacts found during excavations and related paper work. Whilst our lack of suitable storage space could be a problem, contact will be maintained. He also mentioned that at some stage the possible Bath House at Waddon Hill may be excavated with the potential of finding items of interest to the Museum.

8. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 2.00pm in the Museum.