



## MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Zoom meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 at 7pm.

The Chairman of UAH, Dr David Johnston, welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting. The Chair gave apologies on behalf of the President, Mrs Primrose Wilson who was not available to Chair the Annual General Meeting on this occasion.

The Chair explained that in the absence of the Vice-presidents under the articles a proposal from the meeting was required to establish a chair for the AGM. It was proposed and agreed that Dr David Johnston chair the meeting.

### 1. Notice of Meeting

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

### 2. Apologies

The Hon Secretary, Mr Alastair Rankin, read the apologies received from Primrose and Edward Wilson, Alison Ince, Edward MacParlard, Anthea Williams, Leslie and Ann Mackie, Roger Wetherup, Ian Forsythe, Murray Power, Roisin Donnelly, Clare Foley, John Williams and Christopher Slator.

### 3. Minutes of the Twenty First AGM held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

The minutes having been previously circulated were taken as read. The Chairman asked if there were any suggested amendments. There being none the minutes were proposed by **Mr Stephen Craig** and seconded by **Dr Paul Harron**. The meeting agreed and accordingly the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman asked Mrs Rosie Ford-Hutchinson to report on the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### Honorary Treasurers Report for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

I have the pleasure of presenting this report as the Society's Honorary Treasurer. The Society's financial health reflects its activities to promote and protect our historic built environment in 2019.

Firstly I have to report that the Society's net worth has increased by 24% to £157,338. This increase is due to a significant rise in the valuation of our investments in Charifund and an overall surplus in unrestricted funds of £12,632.



The Society's turnover rose by 66% from £178,621 to £297,944. This rise can be largely attributed to additional project work in 2019, particularly the Old Museum Building: Back

to Life Stage 1 and the Conservation Without Frontiers Summer School. Both of these projects did not run in 2018. Another contributory factor was the rise in the value of investments after a significant fall in 2018.

### **Events**

Events income has decreased from £21,789 to £10,740 in 2019, and showed a net fall in the contribution to funds of £2,765 compared to £4,888 in 2018. The Society appreciates the efforts of the Events Committee in generating these funds.

### **Publications**

Publications gross income was £17,542, an increase of £8,132 on 2018. This increase is largely due to the sales of the new publication 'Buildings of South County Down'.

In addition, staff held a number of book sales to sustain the purchase of publications during the 2019 period, and direct distribution to suppliers has increased.

This figure does not take into consideration book storage of £3,455 or £2,504 postage costs. The Society appreciates the efforts of the Publications Committee and staff in generating these funds.

### **Membership**

After a number of years of gradual decrease, income from membership subscriptions income has steadied with a total income from subscriptions, donations and legacies rising to from £21,614 to £25,078. With thanks to all our members for their continued support through subscriptions and donations. With particular thanks to The Dorinda Lady Dunleath Charitable Trust and Peter Marlow for their kind donations of £500 in 2019.



## **Investments**

The revaluation of investments show an increase in income of £17,945 when compared with 2018. This is after a fall of 17,224 in 2018.

## **Consultancy**

Income from consultancy increased significantly £18,921 from £5,523. This is due to additional opportunity for such consultancy work in 2019. For example, the commissioning of a report on Climate Change and the Historic Environment for the Department for Communities Historic Environment Division and our continued work with Belfast City Council on 'Open Heritage Belfast', part of European Heritage Open Days.

## **Deferred Income**

Deferred income for the year amounted to £9,063. £4000 for the completion of the 3 year Heritage Angel Awards project, £4132 for a Belfast City Council project to be completed in 2020, and £931 of income not expended on 'Buildings of South County Down' from the Peter Rankin memorial fund.

## **Projects**

In 2019 we have continued the Heritage at Risk project through the funding of our partners the Department of Communities, Historic Environment Division. We completed the third Heritage Angels Awards, supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. UAH with IGS also programmed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biannual Summer School, Conservation Without Frontiers in Cavan and Fermanagh, supported by both relative local authorities, Creative Ireland, the Apollo Foundation, and the Co-operation with Northern Ireland Scheme.

In partnership with Belfast Natural History & Philosophical Society we have completed the start-up and feasibility stage of the Old Museum Building: Back to Life project. Late 2019 we were awarded support for a new 3 year project 'Hands-On Heritage' from the National

Lottery Heritage Fund to begin 2020. We would like to express our particular thanks to our key project funders in 2019.

### **Conclusion**

It is good to see that in 2019 UAH increased activity, turn over and ended the year in surplus. With thanks to all - members, staff and committee for their contributions in 2019.

Looking forward from 2019 to the current situation with Coronavirus - Covid 19, the capacity of the organisation to gain unrestricted or earned income has diminished significantly by the suspension of events and planned consultancy opportunities. UAH investments may also be affected by the wider economic context resulting from Covid-19. The staff and committee are actively working to address the challenge and realign with new working and opportunities in the new context of Covid-19.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work in generating funds and I would like to put on record my thanks to Nikki, Connie, Maura and Isabel who helped and supported me throughout 2019.

Rosie Ford-Hutchinson

**Honorary Treasurer**

The Chair thanked Mrs Ford-Hutchinson and opened the floor for questions. No questions were forthcoming. The accounts were proposed and adopted.

### **5. Committee's Report**

Dr David Johnston, Chairman, presented the report of behalf of the Committee for the year to 31 December 2019.

It is my pleasure to once again bring the report on the activities of the Society for the year ended December 2019 and in the current circumstances that seems like a very long time ago. Happily however I am reporting on 'BC' or 'Before Covid'.

At the outset I want to highlight our fantastic staff team who as ever deserve our sincere thanks. They never fail to rise to whatever challenge is before them and their sustained enthusiasm in taking forward the case for our unique built heritage is unsurpassed.

Ms Nikki McVeigh, our chief executive has completed her fifth year with us and as ever has been central to all that has been achieved bringing her vision, enthusiasm and vigour to the life of Ulster Architectural Heritage.

As ever Nikki on behalf of us all I say a very sincere thank you.

Huge thanks are also due to Ms Maura Ahern who continued as our Heritage Communications & Events Officer and among many other things coordinated our third year of the Heritage Angel Awards Programmed incorporating the arts and heritage project 'Buildings of Armagh - Heritage in Song'. This was again supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation; Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and the Department for Communities Historic Environment Division. Once again this was a resounding success so thanks to Maura for all her help with this and with so much else. In passing I will also say that this was the final year of funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation but such has been the success and profile of this initiative that we intent to keep it running in some form.

Our Heritage at Risk Officer, Dr Connie Gerrow, continued to work in partnership with the Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division on the Built Heritage at Risk Register for Northern Ireland completing a four year review of all entries on the 'Heritage At Risk Register', and also overseeing the addition of 69 buildings to the register. Connie has also got married so we thank her for all her hard work and congratulate her and wish her well in the future.

I would also like to extend our congratulations to Isabel McKernan who since joining the team has not only greatly developed the role of Executive Assistant but has also had a baby. We send our best wishes to Isobel and her family and thank her for all that she has done.

As ever much of the work of UAH is conducted through our Sub committees and they continue to do great work.

We have already heard from the Hon. Treasurer about the financial situation which thankfully improved during the year. This was only achieved as a result of an immense amount hard work on the part of so many people.

As an organisation we are now more active than ever before with the highest turnover in our history and four full time staff members. I will not repeat what the Hon. Treasurer has said but if I may look forward for a moment I do want to highlight our continued focus on all things financial and the need in the present climate and going forward to look to our long term sustainability. At this point I would particularly like to thank our Hon. Treasurer, Rosie Forde Hutchinson for her commitment and wise counsel. To Rosie and the finance committee who do such important work I say a sincere thank you.

Dr Murray Power led the Events committee who with our staff have been as energetic as ever with a full programme of activities that comprised 23 events, with over 1800 attendees in 8 counties in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Sell out events included: Behind the Scaffolding at Queens University and A Drawing Workshop with Marcus Patton.

I also want to make special mention of the trip to Edinburgh which was a great success despite sometimes inclement weather. The highlight of this was undoubtedly a visit to Lamb's House, the Grove-Raines family home where the hospitality was described as "second to none!" Sincere thanks to everyone involved throughout the year.

Also during the year the third UAH-Irish Georgian Society summer school took place. This was as popular and successful as ever and we thank Primrose Wilson and the volunteers and staff for bringing this to fruition. It was entitled 'Conservation Without Frontiers: Cavan and Fermanagh and was supported by

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Cavan County Council, Creative Ireland, the Apollo Foundation, and the Co-operation with Northern Ireland Scheme.

As ever UAH was actively involved in the annual European Heritage Open Days this year we coordinated the opening of Riddel's Warehouse and the Old Museum Building in partnership with Hearth Historic Buildings Trust and Belfast Natural History & Philosophical Society respectively.

Staff also programmed and delivered 'Open Heritage Belfast' which was supported by Belfast City Council and developed bespoke walking tours on 'The Architecture and Archaeology of Castle Place' The team also led on a two day conference on vernacular buildings in partnership with Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership and work is also ongoing to progress partnerships with the National Churches Trust

In addition to all that I have mentioned there are regular comments or features on UAH campaigns relating to the historic built environment in print, television and radio and of course bi-monthly articles are produced for the Royal Society of Ulster Architects 'Perspective Magazine'.

The Publication committee chaired by Karen Latimer have continued to work hard and this year saw the launch of the latest publication "The Buildings of South County Down". This is a wonderful book and had a suitably excellent launch by the incomparable Dr Eddie McParland. That the event was full to capacity was fitting tribute to Peter Rankin in whose memory the book is dedicated. The book continues to be a best seller. Thanks to the publication committee for all their hard work once again.

The Conservation, Planning and Policy committee chaired by John Anderson remain very active leading or supporting campaigns and advising in others, in addition to attending relevant planning meetings or providing detailed written submissions. In terms of planning it is a bit like the 'wild west' and we thank John and company for doing their best to be the sheriff!

The committee and officers group continue to give generously of their time and knowledge. I greatly value their support and I would like to pay tribute to their contribution to all that UAH achieves. John Anderson as vice chair, Rosie Ford Hutchinson



as Hon Treasurer and Alastair Rankin as Hon Secretary, have fulfilled these positions with diligence and enthusiasm.

So it has been a very busy year and I hope that has given a flavour of all that has been achieved. But I want to conclude by highlighting two particular areas to watch in future. We have been successful in our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a new project focused on public participation and capacity building entitled 'Hands-On Heritage' with the working title Heritage: In Your Hands. This is an exciting initiative which I believe has the potential to be very powerful.

Secondly you may recall that last year I reported our success in securing funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Old Museum: Back to Life project which in partnership with Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society allowed us to think about how the potential of the wonderful and historic Old Museum Building could be unlocked. We have now successfully completed this stage of the project and although there will be a hiatus caused by the current health emergency we are preparing to take this project forward. This has tremendous potential and we look forward to further progress.

UAH is a not for profit organisation with a 50 year record of achievement. It is the lead independent voice for the promotion and protection of Ulster's built heritage, focused on encouraging regeneration for the benefit of people and communities. We have achieved a lot but there remains much to do!

Thank you for your ongoing support which is now more important than ever.

The Chairman opened the floor to questions but none were raised.

## **6. Election of Members and Officers of Committee**

At this point the Chairman passed the Chair to the Hon Secretary, Mr Alistair Rankin, who announced that the following members are retiring from committee by rotation:

John Anderson  
Rosie Ford- Hutchinson  
David Johnston

However having been duly proposed and seconded and being eligible, they now present themselves for re-election. With the agreement of the meeting the Hon Secretary, declared those previously named elected to the Committee. The Committee & Officers for 2020 are as follows:

Officers:

- Mr Alastair Rankin, Honorary Secretary
- Mrs Rosie Ford-Hutchinson, Honorary Treasurer
- Mr. John H. Anderson, Vice-Chairman
- Dr David Johnston, Chairman



Committee:

- Geoff Brooks
- Stephen Craig
- John Edmund
- Claire Foley
- Paul Harron
- Marcus Patton
- Murray Power
- Patricia Warke

**7. Appointment of Examiners of Accounts**

The Chairman asked the Hon Treasurer Mrs Rosie Ford-Hutchinson to bring a proposal to the meeting. Mrs Rosie Ford-Hutchinson proposed Ross Boyd Ltd be reappointed as the Society's Examiners of Accounts. This was seconded by Mr **Alastair Rankin**.

All those present were in agreement.

**8. Any Other Business**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.