



Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Time: 10:30

T= Trustee

**Attending:** Faye Cowan (President), Dave Cowan, Debbie Blackmore (Admin/T), Peter Hickey (Chair/T), Michael Taylor (T), Olly Puckey (Harbourmaster/T), Michael Berry (T), Chris Puckey (T), Simon Boutwood, Helen Hickey, Leigh Taylor, Karen Taylor, Darryl Northcott, Debbie Northcott, Jan Heritage, Steve Shepherd, Des Gutteridge (T), Pat Hayday, Graham Hayday, Will Courtis (T), Barbora Saifrtova, Adam Lister, Alex Butters, Øyvind Grødem, Jodi Maple-Grødem, Chistopher Griffiths, Richard Griffiths, Nick Childs, Tessa Jackson, Tim Ryan, Tony Maple, Simon Hunt.

**Introductions**

Peter Hickey (PH) introduced himself as Chairman of the Polperro Harbour Trust (PHT), or the Trust for these minutes. He welcomed Faye Cowan as the Trust’s President. He thanked everyone for attending.

**Minutes of 2023 AGM**

The minutes of the 2023 AGM have been posted on the website and were duly approved without comment.

**Appointment of Trustees**

Peter Hickey, Mike Taylor and Caroline Steadman were duly re-elected for further 3-year terms and Simon Boutwood’s, Øyvind Grøden’s and Leigh Taylor’s candidacy for Trustee was approved, all with the meetings thanks.

**Museum Report**

PT spoke on behalf of the Museum Chairman, advising that the museum is a separate company but part of the PHT. It has been another successful year regarding takings, up by nearly 3k. Unfortunately, there were increased costs on repairs and maintenance these were mainly due to a lightning strike knocking out the communicator to the monitoring centre, also increased accountancy fees. This has resulted in a net profit just short of £5k. It is intended to review the entrance fees and perhaps introduce a family ticket to increase the annual dividend to the Trust.

New display cases have been added and generous loans of artefacts and exhibits from Trevor McAuley, Roger Puckey and Jeremy Rowett Johns have been received. It is planned to upgrade to LED lighting and new video displays with new screens. The museum would be very grateful for any volunteers. Please come in for a chat at the harbour office.

Many thanks, as always to the staff who are managing with one less member of staff. Advertising for new staff is planned. Thank you to all the volunteers for all their hard work, including Adam Lister and Neil Bryant. Thanks to the trustees for their support and the new accountants, Jane at Phillips Frith, have been very helpful.

**Treasurer’s Report**



Thanks to Andrew Perry for his work over many years as a Trustee and Treasurer and thanks to Debbie for picking up the role since. An independent external audit was successfully completed during the year, with no major findings. The Profit and Loss for the financial year was shown with PH highlighting the significant items. Concerning the balance sheet, day-to-day the running of the Trust can be maintained with the monies received and there is a general goal to maintain £100k in reserve. Major cost items are dependent on grants.

## Chairmans Report

PH reiterated the Trust's objectives:

- That the harbour is safe and enjoyable place to visit and work.
- To promote and support sustainable commercial fishing.
- To preserve the heritage of the Harbour, while acknowledging the need to move with the times.

**Health and Safety (HS).** There was a serious incident in the summer with a child falling into the harbour. The Trust met with the family, reviewed the incident with the insurers and spoke with other harbours about their edge protection provision. Action has been taken to replace the railings in the area and close the working area of the main quay to the public. The Trust is seeking a meeting with the conservation officer. Des was thanked for taking the leading on HS.

A **Condition Survey** has looked at the harbour's assets and recommended a work programme (100k in next two years and another 100k in years 3-5). Teglios Stores and the Fish Market are focus areas.

**Commercial Fishing.** In 1894 the harbour was funded by a fishing levy, today the Trust loses more than £10,000/year, paying for the ice plant, refrigerator, forklift, refuelling facilities and statutory inspections. As Plymouth has closed a grant has been obtained for a refrigerated van. The pollack ban has had an impact on the dayboat. As a result, mooring fees for our commercial boats was frozen this year and is under review. Keeping the trawler is very important.

**Prince of Wales Pier (POW).** The £2.1m required is being funded by levelling up funds, the Environment Agency, Cornwall Council, Local Levy and £55k from the Trust. Thanks going to Armand Toms (Cornwall Councillor, Anna Gedlerd MP, Mevagissey Harbour Trust for their invaluable help and support. The project is progressing to plan for completion in March 2025. Special thanks to Gareth for his professional videos in support of the fund-raising activity. The appeal is set to achieve nearly £40k with public donations so far, £25k from SWW, £600 from the museum, heartfelt thanks to Jackie Roscoe's and the Plantation is fund raising and with the money from the coming filming on the harbour. A big, final push is required to get us to the target £55k.

Work on the **Outer Platform** will be finished by the end of the year using £25k of SWW money.

**The Flood Gate.** The Trust is under pressure from the Environmental Agency (EA) to take over ownership of the flood gate. The gate has ongoing reliability issues, and the Trust does not have the necessary money or skill set to manage and take over ownership from the Environmental Agency (EA).

A **working party** to clear vegetation proved very successful and saved £1k in fees.

Laura Lane Pottery will not be renewing their agreement next year so the unit will be advertised, looking for a small business in keeping with the harbour.

Old Polperro boats Nellie and Maggie will be returning in 2025, which will be great to see and an asset to the harbour.



**Communications and Fundraising Team.** A much improved, website is due to be launched. Thanks to Øyvind. The Trust has increased comms during the year generally publicising the harbour and with surveys associated with grants and fundraisers. Installation of new card readers around the harbour will improve the hit-rate of donations. Merchandising is being considered. Des is looking at a 'Friends of Polperro Harbour' subscription scheme, aimed at the many admirers outside the village. Thanks to Øyvind, Jo, Gareth, Karen, Des, Simon & Debbie for these exciting developments.

## **The 5-Year Plan.**

- The plan has a focus on how best to **support commercial fishing** affordably. Discussions will take place around additional stores on the main quay, the possibility of relocating the ice plant to free up the Fish Market area for other use including the lobster hatchery idea.
- Rebuilding the old paddling pool in the outer harbour will also be considered.
- **The Trust as a charity.** The process of revising the Trust's constitution is hand to consider the pros and cons of becoming a registered charity. It will certainly be easier for firms contracting with the Trust and for grant applications. Thanks to Simon for this work.
- **Succession Planning.** The Trust is considering the need for paid roles in the future, especially when Olly, as our Harbourmaster, retires. These plans will have to link to additional necessary fundraising activity, on top of what it costs to run the harbour, or standing still.

## **AOB / Q&A**

A question was raised concerning the condition of some of the leisure boats in the harbour. It was advised a hard stand mooring is planned to help owners wanting to repair and clean their boats.

## **Thanks.**

Thanks to the many people have been very free with their advice and support. Thanks especially to neighbouring ports – Tina at Looe, Paul Thomas at Fowey and the Mevagissey Harbour Trust. Thanks of course to our volunteer Trustees for all of their hard work, particularly Debbie (the font of all knowledge), Ollie, Chris and Phil Courtis.

## **Closing.**

In closing, the harbour is considered operationally solvent but needs to generate more income for future needs, rather than rely on grants for capital work. It is heartening that there appear to be more opportunities than hurdles. It's a privilege to contribute, helping looking after the harbour for future generations. It is generally very interesting and enjoyable work and we would encourage anyone to get involved.