## A - Apologies for absence

None.

## B - Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the MA held on 12 November 2024 at 1320 at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds and via our website and conference platform were put to the meeting for approval. Julie Taylor Kent proposed, seconded by Tony Heaton, that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried.

## C - Annual Report and Accounts of the Museums Association

## D - Report on financial position

Mo Suleman, MA Treasurer, gave a brief overview of the key financial points for the 2024/25 accounts. 25/26 income budgets are higher than 24/25 actual. Unrestricted income is higher, in line with steady growth in trading income. Unrestricted income is budgeted to increase in 25/26 across all areas. At present we are on target to meet these budgets. Employment costs are budgeted to be slightly higher in 25/26 due to meeting staffing requirements and a cost of living pay increase. Direct costs increase in 25/26 due to high inflation on costs such as paper and print for Museums Journal. Tom Hughes proposed, seconded by Janet Dugdale, that the Annual Report, Accounts and Financial Report be formally received. Carried.

## E/F - Individual and Institutional membership subscriptions

Following an inflationary increase in rates and bands last year, this year with the MA's individual and institutional members reporting significant financial pressure, the MA proposed an inflationary rise of 2.0%, which is half the level of inflation. For the MA's institutional members, this sees bands as well as fees increasing, meaning some organisations may pay significantly less. Increases in individual membership fees are £1 per annum for Essential and Concessionary members and £2 per annum for Full members. Institutional members will pay between £2 and £51 more per annum, with the majority increasing by £4 or less. Emily Robson proposed, seconded by Christine McLean that individual membership subscription rates are increased by 2.0%. Carried. Gillian Crumpton proposed, seconded by Kate Steiner that institutional membership subscription rates are increased by 2.0%. Carried.

## G - To adopt the revised Code of Ethics

The MA has acted as the guardian of UK museum ethics since the first Codes of Practice and Conduct were introduced in 1977. These were updated in 1987, 1991, 2002, 2007 and 2015. The revised Code of Ethics for Museums aims to better reflect changes in the sector and society since the last review in 2014/15. The new draft Code of Ethics follows a two-year consultation and drafting process from 2023 to 2025. This has been a collaborative piece of work led by a working group, and has included consultation through open surveys and meetings, engagement with key sector bodies and Accreditation partners, an online consultation event with community partners of museums, and consensus-building workshops. The document presented at the AGM represents the general consensus of the sector on the ethical standards that are expected of all museums and those who work in and with them. The full version of the Code of Ethics was shared on page 43 of the full annual report. Hannah Mather proposed, seconded by Ross McKirdy, to adopt the revised Code of Ethics. Carried.

## H - Auditors

It was recommended that Kingston Smith be re-appointed as auditors to the association until the conclusion of the next general meeting. Sheila Fisher proposed, seconded by Stella Byrne, that Moore Kingston Smith LLP be appointed auditors to the MA. Carried.