



# Minutes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 4.30pm  
Torquay Museum

## Opening remarks

Caroline Marcus, Chair of GEM, said how proud she was of everyone involved in GEM and shared highlights of the year. This included the news that the National Heritage Lottery Fund has supported the project *A Stronger GEM for a Stronger Sector* with a grant of £68,500 over an 18-month period. This project will help GEM improve governance, develop a new business plan and create a new vision for GEM shared by members.

Other developments include the exciting office move to Chatham Historic Dockyard, the piloting of bespoke training opportunities, exploration of online learning, developing relationships with SSO's and key strategic partner organisations. The GEM Team are actively involved in new research, conferences and the MA learning and engagement work to mark over 20 years since the publication of *A Commonwealth* by David Anderson.

Continuing and developing advocacy work across the nations, GEM now has Trustees based in both Wales and Scotland on the board and area representatives across the UK. GEM is very grateful to them for the work they contribute and for their sharing of expertise. GEM is also grateful to its wonderful volunteers who are helping with communications, publications and the planned study trip. Thanks were made in particular to Devon Turner who has worked as a Communications Volunteer, raising GEM's profile on social media and supported conference. Caroline Marcus handed over to Rachel Tranter, GEM Director to take us through the AGM agenda items.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Clare Gisby, Company Secretary.

### 2. RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE 68<sup>TH</sup> AGM

The following resolution was put to the meeting:  
THAT the minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> AGM be received. Agreed by the meeting

### 3. RECEIVE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

The following resolution was put to the meeting:  
THAT the Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2018 be received. An opportunity was given to ask questions, Richard Bruce was introduced as Treasurer and thanked. The meeting agreed that the annual accounts be accepted with a few semantic but not material changes which would be made by the Director. A final version will be made available to members via the website.

#### **4. RECEIVE TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

The following resolution was put to the meeting:

THAT the Trustees for the period ended 31 December 2018 be received. Agreed by the meeting.

#### **5. APPOINT ACCOUNTANTS**

The following resolution was put to the meeting:

THAT the Trustees will appoint and determine fees for a suitable GEM accountant following Bruce Burford's retirement. Richard explained the process of appointing an independent examiner and how the accounts are examined. We will be looking for a suitably qualified firm of accountants and the Board will appoint someone. Agreed by the meeting.

#### **6. ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

Retiring: Alison Giles was thanked and stood down

Elected: Ben Pearce has been co-opted and introduced himself to the meeting; he is the Director of Paintings in Hospitals and hopes to bring his skills, particularly in fundraising, to the GEM board.

#### **7. AGREE PROPOSED CHANGES TO GEM's Charitable Objects**

We have had permission from the Charities Commission to change the objects of the organisation. The new objects were read aloud and shown to the meeting. The meeting agreed unanimously to accept the proposed changes to GEM's charitable objects.

#### **8. AGREE PROPOSED CHANGES TO GEM's Powers of the Charity**

Changes to the powers of the charity have also been suggested and were shown to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

#### **9. CREATING GEM'S NEW VISION – DISCUSSION WITH RICHARD WATTS, CEO PEOPLE MAKE IT WORK**

Lively discussion regarding GEM's vision. The final wording will be shared via the GEM website.

#### **10. CLOSING REMARKS**

Thanks to Holly Bee and Devon Turner for all their hard work organising GEM Conference 2019.



## **Proposed change to GEM's charitable objects**

GEM is currently reviewing its charitable objects and powers which form part of the Memorandum of Association of the Group for Education in Museums. This review is being undertaken as part of a wider Governance Review which is being undertaken by Hilary Barnard and Ruth Lesirge HBRL Consulting.

We are proposing this change to the GEM charitable objects following the advice of HBRL consulting. This change is recommended to provide a wider, more contemporary remit for the GEM objects, taking account of best practice elsewhere for example in the objects of other equivalent sector support charities. This change is also desirable as it reflects heritage learning as a focus alongside museum learning.

**Please find below the proposed GEM charitable objects:**

**“a) to promote and advance education, especially museum and heritage education, for the public benefit in particular by the provision of training and sharing of resources in museum and heritage education.**

**(b) to undertake promote or assist in promoting research into all aspects of museum and heritage education and to disseminate the useful result of such research for the benefit of the public.”**

These new objects would replace the current charitable objects as outlined in the 2001 Memorandum of Association of the Group for Education in Museums which are as follows:

3.1 The objects of the Charity (the Objects) are to further the education of the public by supporting and advancing education through museums

3.2 In furtherance of, as an ancillary to the Objects, but not otherwise the Charity shall:

3.2.1 Promote education as a central function of museums

3.2.2 Encourage the exchange of information and ideas relating to the practice of museum education

3.2.3 Foster the highest standard of educational practise

3.2.4 Promote the role of museums in formal and informal education

3.2.5 Promote professionalism in the educational work of museums

This proposed change to GEM's charitable objects and changes to GEM's powers of the charity (covered in a separate document) are included on the agenda for GEM's AGM scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm at Torquay Museum.

GEM members are invited to send any comments on the proposed changes to the GEM objects and GEM powers in advance of the AGM to Rachel Tranter by 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Rachel Tranter

Director

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