

Council for British Archaeology

Minutes of the 2026 Annual General Meeting (153rd Council Meeting)

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 21st February at 10.20am at The Miliner, York. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Gail Boyle, Chair of Trustees. The CBA Executive Director, Mr Neil Redfern, and staff members were in attendance.

AGM Agenda

- 10:30 Welcome and confirmation of appointments to the Board of Trustees**
- 10:40 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8th February 2025**
- 10:50 The Annual Trustees' Report and Financial Statements.**
- 11:00 Appointment of auditors.**
- 11:10 Updating the CBA Articles of Association, Mrs Gail Boyle Chair of Trustees**
- 11:20 Approving the New CBA Articles of Association**
- 11:30 Executive Director's report on current and future activities.**
- 11:40 Provisional Date CBA Annual Meeting 2027**
- 11:45 Any other business**
- 11:50 Close**

There were 153 confirmed votes at the AGM (59 in person, made up of 29 individual votes and 30 organisational votes; and 94 proxy votes, made up of 70 individual votes and 24 organisational votes).

Quorum for the AGM is 30 votes.

The Chair declared the AGM was Quorate and the start of the meeting.

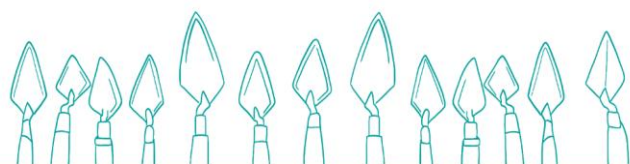
1. Welcome and confirmation of appointments to the Board of Trustees

This AGM marks the standing down of two CBA Trustees Jeannette Plummer Sires and Danika Parikh. The Chair of Trustees offered thanks on behalf of the CBA for their hard work and commitment during their time as Trustees.

Second term: The meeting was asked to ratify the re-election of Mike D'Aprix for a second term as a CBA Trustee.

Members **RATIFIED the re-election of Mike D'Aprix** with 150 votes.

New Trustees: There were two Trustee vacancies to fill and three candidates standing for election. The candidates were Mike Young, Lesley McFadyen, and Gemma Regniez.



The meeting was asked to vote on each nomination and votes were as follows:

- Mike Young - 124 yes votes
- Lesley McFadyen – 104 yes votes
- Gemma Regniez – 91 yes votes

The two candidates with the most votes were **Mike Young** and **Lesley McFadyen** who were thereby **ELECTED** as Trustees of the CBA.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8th February 2025

The Minutes of the 152nd Council Meeting held on Saturday 8th February 2025 were **APPROVED** with 139 votes yes, 0 votes no and 13 abstentions.

There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

Members were provided with access to the Annual Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in advance of the AGM.

The Trustees' Annual Report for 2024-2025 was **APPROVED** with 147 votes yes, 0 votes no and 5 abstentions.

The Annual Trustees' Report is available to read at <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/resource/cba-annual-general-meeting-2026-resources.html>.

4. Appointment of Auditors

Members were invited to approve the appointment of Streets Chartered Accountants as auditors for the coming year.

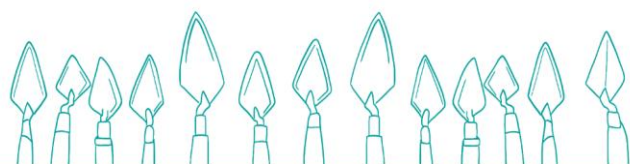
The appointment of auditors Streets Chartered Accountants for the coming year was **APPROVED** with 149 votes yes, 0 votes no, and 3 abstentions.

5. Updating the CBA Articles of Association, Mrs Gail Boyle, Chair of Trustees

The Chair of Trustees shared the following statement:

As a Board of Trustees, we have a legal duty to act in the best interests of the charity, and to ensure that it is capable of operating in the most effective way possible to achieve its charitable objectives.

Over the last year, one of our strands of work has focussed on our governance. As an incorporated charitable company, we are governed by our Articles of Association, which were last updated in 2019. However, on review they were found wanting with regard to modern practice and recent legal rulings. In particular, for example, they are silent on provisions for virtual meetings such as online AGMs. We also recognised that our current Trustee appointment process was complex, and potentially limiting our ability to recruit individuals with the specific skills and experience the organisation needs to help it progress.



current audience and identified some challenges around how we are perceived and our purpose as an organisation. There is a clear need for us to go out to communities to engage with them and not expect them to come to us. Broader learning highlighted the risk to archaeology due to its lack of diversity, particularly relating to who participates at both grassroots and professional level. This has an impact on wider wellbeing and community cohesion strands; there is a risk of the discipline becoming too narrow in focus; and there is a risk to the CBA's relevance and membership.

The Trowel and Error survey reached over 3,000 people and has shown us that the broader public are confused by our dominant focus on the historical record and the data first culture. Respondents felt archaeologists risked becoming invisible in the archaeological process and we need to look at how we can begin to humanise the stories we are trying to tell. The data we produce is often siloed and dispersed and the language we use is often challenging for the public to understand, creating a barriers and perpetuating ideas that archaeology can be elitist. There is a lack of understanding around audience selection and the tracking of feedback and evaluation. Through our workshops with non-archaeologists, we saw the importance of personal stories and connections and when the participant needs were centred, we saw very a different output to that produced by commercial or academic archaeologists. They focused on personal stories and how everyday life matters in the archaeological record, they are passionate about doing the right thing and feel everyone should be involved in archaeological thinking. Hands on opportunities are important, and we need to find ways to break down barriers to participating in archaeology.

The CBA is seeing challenges around our membership being passive, particularly around our charitable purposes. There is a high level of engagement with British Archaeology magazine, but many members don't move beyond that. We need to service the needs of our members whilst also working to broaden access. The CBA network or groups and archaeological groups and societies are disconnected from each other and the CBA, and we need to find new methods to go to them and provide the support they are looking for. There are huge opportunities to engage younger and more diverse audiences. The Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) undertakes an annual census which show over 16% of YAC members come from diverse backgrounds, 97% of professional archaeologists are white making YAC the most representative heritage entity in the country and we need to look at how we develop this through the whole organisation. We need to do more work on the CBA's messaging and identity to help us reach out to those broader audiences.

Over the next 12 months we will be focusing in on these areas to understand what that means for us as an organisation, for our members and the communities we want to serve.

8. Provisional date for 2027

The provisional date for the next Council for British Archaeology Annual Meeting is Saturday 20th February 2027.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

END OF MEETING

