

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MARITIME INSTITUTE OF IRELAND HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2022.

## Ordinary Business of the Meeting:

### **1. Minutes Silence for Deceased Members and All Who Died at Sea.**

- a. Long-standing member, Henry Jack

### **2. Convening of the AGM, apologies and messages.**

The President, Dr Joe Varley, outlined the protocols to be followed. Apologies were received from members, Richard McCormick, John Leech, Gerry Sargent and Dominic Daly.

The President declared that the quorum of 20 was exceeded so the meeting could proceed.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous AGM.**

The minutes from the AGM, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and the EGM, September 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 had been posted to members prior to the AGM so they were taken as read. They were formally agreed and approved. **Proposed** by Michael McCormick. **Seconded** by Peadar Ward.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the AGM 2020.**

Ray Traynor was deemed elected as no other nominations were received.

### **5. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary, Therese King delivered, through a PowerPoint presentation, a detailed account of the various developments that have been taking place within the museum. She thanked members for submitting their email addresses in line with our 'Green Policy' and asked if others could do likewise. She began by noting that, due to Covid, we were unable to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the museum. The members of the board and what responsibilities they had chosen to manage were identified. She noted, with examples, the more formal approach taken by the board in relation to members' obligations re the Governance Code. Board members had completed a Conflict of Interests form, filed by the Secretary, a lobbying update and were now registered as beneficial owners of the MII. She thanked the CE supervisor and his staff, on behalf of the board, for all their work and interest and added that, though much of it went beyond their brief, it didn't go unnoticed. She thanked the various groups that had forwarded updates on: the museum (accreditation process), governance / legal matters, current CE staff, Health and Safety, digital progress, marketing/ outreach activities, library & archive collection and finally, strategic plan. She highlighted the recent visits by the Chilean Ambassador and the Cathaoirleach.

Finally, she drew attention to the importance of succession planning, the need to have a clear idea about the optimal board composition and board diversity. The Charities Regulator had

advised that this will ensure that a good board will comprise of new and old trustees – organisational memory will be retained while new drive and ideas will further the organisation’s vision. The challenge, however, is to attract new volunteers if the institute / museum is to be sustainable.

**Acceptance of the report proposed by:** Ronnie Lewis. **Seconded by:** Peadar Ward.

## **6. Treasurer’s Report followed by the Audited Financial Statements 2021.**

The Treasurer, Rob Flanagan, introduced Emma Dunne from DFK Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors. He noted that if you strip out the CE scheme, and capital grants to look at just the operating activity of the institute, you can see that donations were the biggest source of income during the year, primarily down to the anonymous donation received. Key revenue sources of admissions, gift shop, and venue hire were lower. He expressed sincere gratitude to our supporters in the Department of Social Protection, Department of Culture, Failte Ireland and Department of Transport for supporting, through current grants, the operation of the museum. He reminded those present that the Heritage Council provided a grant along with co-investment from the Institute to refurbish the Halpin uniform and exhibit. This was a really important activity for the Institute, faithful to our charitable objectives to preserve maritime heritage. Finally, he expressed his belief that this sort of project is the best use of museum funds, one that is in partnership with grant providers.

Emma Dunne followed this account with an explanation to members of the MII’s Audited Report and Financial Statements for 2021. The accounts had been posted to members prior to the AGM.

Some questions arose from the floor and were responded to by both presenters. Member of the Fundraising Committee sought information on whether it was the intention to reconvene this committee.

**Proposed by:** Seamus O’ Connor. **Seconded by** Paul Fields.

## **7. Appointment of Auditors for the coming year.**

It was unanimously **agreed** to appoint DFK Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors. It was also agreed to authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

**Proposed by** Rob Flanagan. **Seconded by:** Therese King.

Proposed by Hugh O’ Rorke. Seconded by: Michael Haugh

## **8. AOB**

- Omission above highlighted - need to adopt the minutes of the EGM.

**Proposed by:** Michael McCormack. **Seconded by:** Jochen Romstedt.

- Volunteers were reminded to return the questionnaire prepared by Michael McCormack as soon as possible as this feedback is central to strategic planning.
- Idea posited that a memorial event might be organised to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our foundation.

- Noted that due to the problems of the drains we might be facing a financial cost in the near future so account might be taken of this when considering budgets.

### **9. President's Address**

The President, Dr Joe Varley, referred to the tensions that often exist between the work of the two areas , museum and institute and how he viewed them as essential parts of a jigsaw. Profile is changing. Recent conversations with the DLRCoCo offered hope in relation to future collaboration. He highlighted the need for sponsorship over a 3/5 year period but emphasised that any proposal must be informative and detailed in order to qualify for a grant.

He suggested that our audiences could be found in groups such as men's sheds, retirees, schools along the DART line. He advised of his passion for the STEM programme and of how the museum satisfies the criteria for this programme.

He extended his appreciation to all, especially to Declan Traynor and his CE staff.

**AGM ends**