Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society Ltd
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024/25
Held on Tuesday September 23 2025 at 6.30pm in the Theatre, The Poly and via Zoom

In Attendance:
Virgina Button (Chair)
Edward Cartwright (Director)
Roderick Clarke (Secretary)
Jo Browse – Trustee via Zoom
Tom Ingate – Trustee
Shaquira Lue – Trustee
Jon Paget – Trustee
Claire Peate – Trustee
Amanda Rundle – Trustee via Zoom
Sue Radmore – Trustee
Louis Turner - Trustee
Mark Woodridge - Trustee

Apologies received:
Tim Parnell – Trustee
Susie Bell
Helen Chiverton
Vince Curtis
Sue Davis
Kerstin Jakt
Lars Jakt
Clare Lowry
Laura McGregor
Wendy Rylance
Adam Thomson
Barbara Warwick

In total, there were 49 members in attendance at The Poly, 19 attending via zoom and 22 proxy representatives for a total of 90 members; with a current membership of 699, the meeting was declared quorate.

Item	Topic	Actions/decisions
01	**Unratified Minutes of AGM September 25 2024** Accepted as a correct record.	Proposed by Sue Radmore Seconded by Mike Jenks Accepted unanimously.
02	**The Directors' Report 2024/25** Ginny Button presented her Report for the year ended March 31 2025, which had been distributed prior to the meeting and forms part of these minutes. She highlighted Falmouth Art Gallery's Annual Tuke Report which had also been previously distributed. The Poly continues to work in partnership with the Gallery to plan for the Collection's future safe keeping as a heritage asset, and to ensure it remains accessible, especially to local communities.	

03	**Financial Review and Summary Accounts 2024/25** Louis Turner presented the Review and the Summary Accounts for the fifteen months ended March 31 2025 for approval. These had been prepared by Eleanor Williams and distributed prior to the meeting and form part of these minutes. Louis advised that a five-year financial plan is being developed in tandem with the capital bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) which will provide the foundation for longer-term strategic plans.	Proposed Mike Jenks Seconded by Yolanda Mack Accepted unanimously.
04	**Appointment of independent Financial Examiner** An independent examiner for financial year of 2025/56 is required. The Board recommended the re-appointment of Harland Accountants.	Proposed by Sue Radmore Seconded by Michael Carver Accepted unanimously
05	**Chair's report** A verbal update on recent developments was provided by Ginny Button, covering the key objectives agreed by the Board in January 2025, continuing the themes from 2024. • Increase our membership – our membership has grown significantly stands at 699 at the date of the meeting, with an ambitious goal for September 2026 of 1000. • Implementing the outcomes of the "Community Consultation for The Poly" to encourage wider, more diverse engagement – funding for an Engagement Coordinator to drive forward these plans has been received from the Tanner Phoenix Trust through the Cornwall Community Foundation. The Access Project to make the rear of our historic building fully accessible is seeking funding – this was covered in detail under a separate item on the agenda. • Increase philanthropic donations and unrestricted income – The Poly200 fundraising programme continues with a target of raising £200,000 before our 200th anniversary in 2033. Ginny also highlighted the Crowdfunder campaign run by Ed Cartwright that successfully raised funds to replace our ageing IT systems and thanked everyone for their support • Improve the sustainability of our building and operations – notably through a major bid to the NLHF to deliver an Access project. Ginny shared some highlights of our programme since March, including new series of talks in collaboration with the Royal Geographical Society. She also highlighted the plan to hold the RCPS Medal Awards in 2026, in partnership with the Falmouth Hotel and support from the Tanner Phoenix Trust.	
06	**Sustainable Access Project** Sue Radmore provided an update on our ambitious plans to create a fully accessible entrance at the rear of The Poly, including access to the Main Gallery, Theatre and Archives and the provision of an accessible toilet. Architect Michael Harris was thanked for his continued expert help being provided pro bono. The current estimated cost of the entire programme is £1.9m-£2.0m, of which The Poly will be expected to contribute 10%. As discussed at the AGM in September 2024, the Board have	

	provisionally agreed to release reserve funds to support this contribution if the scheme is successful. The full bid to the NLHF will be submitted in November 2025; following initial approval and further preparatory work, the full delivery phase is expected to start in early 2028. Sue asked the meeting to indicate its support for the Project and the release of reserves to enable it. She advised that further sources of match-funding were being sought to minimise the amount needed to be released from our reserves.	The meeting unanimously expressed support for the proposals.
07	**Special Resolution to Amend Quorum for General Meetings** Ginny introduced the Special Resolution previously distributed. She emphasised that the proposed reduction of the quorum from one-tenth of the membership to one-twentieth reflected the significant increases in membership levels in recent years.	The Special Resolution was proposed by Dave Peate, seconded by Claire Peate and approved unanimously.
07	**Trustee Elections** Jo Browse, Rod Clarke, Tim Parnell and Amanda Rundle were introduced for re-election, each was highly recommended by the Board. Mark Woodbridge was introduced for election, highly recommended by the Board, which had co-opted him during the year. Mark will be taking the lead on the Society's finances; Ginny thanked Louis Turner for his leadership on financial matters and confirmed that he will continue as a Trustee.	In each case a poll of members present, those attending by zoom and proxy votes resulted in a clear majority in favour of re-election. A poll of members present, those attending by zoom and proxy votes resulted in a clear majority in favour of election.
08	**AOB** Ginny thanked everyone for attending and for their continued support of The Poly. The Meeting closed at 2010.	