

THE FRIENDS OF DINOSAUR ISLE MUSEUM AGM
Saturday 18th January 2025 @ 15.30hrs - Dinosaur Isle Museum Education Room
Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Martyn Hornett (Chair)
Bridgette Sibbick (Treasurer)
Will Thurbin (Secretary)
Dr Jeremy Lockwood
Patricia Lockwood
Peter Pusey
John Ash

MH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Sean Smith
Trudie Wilson (Social Media)
Pam Ash
Dr Martin Munt (Non-voting member)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the last meeting.

Matters Arising

MH said that there were two matters arising from the previous minutes, which would be covered during the course of the meeting.

1. Membership fees
2. FODI functional leads

3. Chair's Report

MH gave his verbal report to the AGM, the contents of which mirror his written report and are included at the end of these minutes. At the end of MH's verbal report, several members asked questions:

Q. Will the proposed devolution affect IoW Council and the museum?

A: Not sure. A paper going to cabinet. This may delay elections.

Q. Is the money for the roof etc. secure.

A. MH said yes. Whilst he had not seen the plans yet, MM has been trying to confirm how the work will take place. FODI said we would be happy to come and support with some of the practical work, i.e. painting.

Q. Would the NHM consider DI as a project.

A. MH said we need to know what the council's plans are to know what is going to happen to the museum. JL said NHM wants a trust to run the museum and they could support this but they would not run the museum. They could provide fossils so that DI's displays could be changed regularly. PP said we now have 100 members of FODI. MH said we must raise FODI's social media profile over the coming year if we are to fully support the museums plans for redisplay.

4. Election of Officers

Trudi Wilson has stepped down. MH offered his thanks on behalf of FODI for Trudi's work in setting up FODI's social media, including its website. The meeting agreed to send a bunch of flowers in appreciation of their contribution to FODI.

Action: MH to send TW flowers on behalf of FODI.

Tegan Hicks has offered to join FODI as a trustee and manage its social media. Proposed by PL and seconded by AH. Agreed

John Ash

After many years of service to FODI, John Ash will step down as a trustee. JL offered FODI's grateful thanks to John and to Pam (who stepped down last year), saying: "I'd like to take a moment to express our sincere thanks to John Ash as he steps down. Along with Pam, John has been at the heart of the Friends of Dinosaur Isle Museum from the very beginning—about 15 years ago now. His wealth of experience has been invaluable to us all, and his wisdom, gained over a lifetime, has guided us through many challenges. John has always shared this wisdom with a great sense of humour, making even the most serious matters a bit lighter.

If there's one small quirk, it's John's tendency to arrive late to meetings—usually due to last-minute crises involving the Siamese cats! I also have fond memories of John and Pam, with their animated 'cuddly' dinosaur, PLEO, captivating young children and bringing so much joy to those around them. John, you've been a tremendous help to the Friends, and a good friend to me personally. And all of this, from a man who confesses that dinosaurs and fossils don't really pique his interest! On behalf of all of us, the Friends would like to thank you enormously for your dedication and support. We hope you'll still join us at future meetings and continue to share your warmth and wisdom with us." The meeting gave a warm round of applause for John and Pam. MH proposed honorary membership for John and Pam. The meeting wholeheartedly agreed and showed their appreciation with another round of applause.

Action: PP to note JA & PA Honorary Membership of FODI

5. Treasurer's Report – Bridgette Sibbick

BS gave a report on FODI's finances:
Reconciliation of funds

Total funds brought forward (April 2023) - £11,627

Total Income:

Membership fees £641

Donations £1255

Total Income £1896

Total Expenditure:

Purchase of Specimen for the museum (Theropod Arm) £2000

Total funds carried forward to the next financial year (April 2024/25) - £11,523

Statement on Financial Reserves:

FODI does not have any restricted funds so we are able to spend all its reserve funds in pursuit of our charitable aims with the following exceptions

FODI will hold a reserve of £500 to manage cash flow and cover essential bills such as insurance and website costs. The charity will also hold a reserve of £500 to cover the cost of closure should the charity need to close. The rest of FODI's funds will for the be held as commitments to cover purchases of specimens for the museum and to support the refurbishment of displays during the closure period for repair of the building during 2025/26.

6. Any Other Business

The meeting was opened up for any other business that members might wish to raise:

Q. How are people reminded about membership payments?

A. More than half of FODI members pay by standing order.

Action: PP will try to move the remaining members to take up standing orders. New members will be asked to set up a standing order.

MH said Steve Love has generously donated some of John Sibbeck's artwork – These will be auctioned to raise money for FODI and its work.

The cost of family membership was raised. The price is still £19 a year for family membership of FODI, which gives free access to the museum for a year. This price has been in place for about 15 years. The cost of a yearly family membership from the museum is now £40 if bought from the museum – a massive disparity. A discussion ensued on how this might be addressed. The meeting agreed that the trustees will discuss the matter at the next trustees meeting, considering the points raised during the AGM.

Action: Trustees to discuss the matter at their next meeting and develop a plan to address the issue.

Q. Will FODI take part in the next Biosphere?

A. MH said Yes. We will have a look to have this as part of this year's events programme.

Action: MH to notify the organisers of Biosphere that FODI will take part this year. Members are asked to support this activity and others that FODI will participate in during 2025.

With no other business, the 2025 AGM of the Friends of Dinosaur Isle was closed.

The AGM was followed by a very interesting talk by Dr. Simon Penn on The Purbeck Wealden: Cretaceous Wetlands.

Signed as an accurate account of the meeting:



M C G Hornett

Date: 28 Jan 2025

THE FRIENDS OF DINOSAUR ISLE AGM

Chairs Report

Thanks:

A big thank you to all the FODI volunteers who have made the charity a going concern over the last 12 months, I know many of you have given your time and often money to support the museum and its activities. Many of you have contributed by cooking, setting up, tidying, donating to the raffles and generally helping out at events which it very much appreciated.

I would also like to record a thank you to Martin Munt and all the museum staff for their continuing support of FODI and for the use of the facilities at the museum. As a charity we are very grateful for their support.

Previous Events:

Over the last year FODI have provided significant support for a number of museum activities with members helping out at all the big events such as Fun Day, Biosphere weekend, Blast from the Past, all of which were great events. This year FODI branched out and ran a charity stand at the Chale Show from which we learned a lot and believe that this type of event would help boost our local profile and our fundraising activities,

We of course also ran the usual series of walks, talks, BBQ and quiz nights all of which were very well attended. A personal thank you to Jeremy for organising and delivering the questions for the quiz events - I will not forget the turkey hat in a hurry!

2025 Events:

We have held a couple of Creative Workshops at the museum, led by Bridgette, which have so far been well attended so will hopefully get FODI more widely known. At the Tuesday event we had a number of home schooled children who seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Museum:

The number of new dinosaur holotypes in the museum continues to grow with the announcement last year of *Comptonatus chasei*, described by Dr Jeremy Lockwood and named after the late Nick Chase. This specimen is the most complete ornithopod dinosaur found in the UK since Mantellisaurus in 1914 (also from the Isle of Wight). We have also had named *Vectidromeus insularis* as a new genus and species of hypsilophodontid ornithopod from the island.

There is still some concerns over the future of the museum and whilst the IWC did previously agree to transfer the running of the museum over to a Charitable Trust and began discussions with the Hampshire Cultural Trust. This has now been halted whilst the IWC go through yet another round of procurement activity to identify a suitable trust to take on the museum management. As FODI we are engaged with the IWC management to try and ensure that the museum continues to remain accredited and open to the public.

At the beginning of 2024 the IWC were notified that their bid for a MEND (Museum Estate and Development Fund) grant to repair the fabric of the museum building had been successful. So towards the end of this year repairs to the fabric of the building will commence and include the roof, reinstating the heating and some electrical and lighting work. As a result of the successful MEND bid the museum are now working up refurbishment plans for the displays whilst the museum is closed for the repair work. The museum have approached FODI to support them in their

plans for the refurbishment of displays which we would be delighted to help with. Obviously we have limited funds but I do feel that we could make a real difference once the museums plans have been finalised and we can prioritised our support in line with our charitable objectives.

Committee:

Last year we discussed moving to having more sub-committees to assist the functional leads so that the burden of FODI activities is not all focused on a single individual. So if anyone has a burning desire to help out in any area as a sub committee member please let one of the committee know. The one area where the committee are probably going to need more help is in fundraising, to support the refurbishment of museum displays. We currently have no fundraising member on the committee and I have tried several organisations (U3A, museum development SE) but so far without any luck, so if anyone has experience or knows of anyone please let me know. We have however had some success with FODI getting back control of our Facebook page, it took several months and lots of letters to Meta but we got there. So you will see a bit more activity and information being shared via Facebook. We have also entered the digital age with a SumUp machine linked to the charity account so we can now take card payments at events.

Summary:

The last year has been undoubtedly good for FODI and the museum, however, 2025 is going to be a challenge if we are to be able to support the refurbishment of displays when the museum is closed. We do have a good programme of FODI and museum events this year and so hopefully the charity will continue to flourish and grow