



AGM of the British School at Athens | 3 February 2026 |

10-11 Carlton House Terrace | London | SW1Y 5AH

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the British School at Athens was held in person in the Great Hall, King's College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 5 pm GMT.

MINUTES

The Chair of Council, Professor Sir Roderick Beaton, welcomed everyone and shared a piece of sad news regarding the passing of Professor Richard Tomlinson, former chairman of the BSA.

Prof. Beaton invited the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Huw Smith, to present the Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year to 5 April 2025.

1. Adoption of the Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year to 5 April 2025

The Honorary Treasurer presented the Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year to 5 April 2025, which were circulated with the invitation to the AGM and proposed their adoption. He noted that they were subject to audit by Moore Kingston Smith LLP (formerly Williamson Morton Thornton LLP) and had received a clean audit opinion. They had also been submitted to the British Academy and the Charity Commission, and both bodies had approved them.

Mr Smith noted that the Financial Statements reflected a solid position for the BSA and directed attendees to p.23 showing income of £1.7m which had been boosted by significant grant receipts, and expenditure of £1.9m, which was comparable to the previous year and reflected the BSA's charitable activities. Whilst there was an overall deficit of £128,000, this primarily reflected spending charged to restricted funds and the BSA was in good financial health with a continued focus on financial sustainability.

Mr Smith briefly reviewed the composition of the BSA's funds shown on p.25 and totalling £6.5m. Unrestricted funds now exceeded £0.5m which was important to the BSA's financial position, representing a cushion against anything unpredictable. He also described the Stratigraphical Museum fund (at £2.3m, the BSA's largest single fund) which is used solely for the Stratigraphical Museum project, commenting on the

fund's history and investment approach and the likely adequacy of funds to complete the project.

The Honorary Treasurer then invited questions.

In addition to his earlier comments on the Stratigraphical Museum fund, The Honorary Treasurer, in response to a question from Mrs Fiona Gledhill, undertook to review for the 2026 accounts the explanatory notes contained on pp.45–47 and 50–51 of the accounts to ensure their consistency with the Funds listed in notes 17 and 18.

Professor James Whitley noted that the list of risks that had to be managed by Trustees did not include the risk of closure of UK University Archaeology Departments. The Chairman clarified that the risk register considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the BSA included that, and that the Annual Report to Trustees included only the top five risks. The BSA was aware of that risk and thanked Prof. Whitley for raising it.

The Chairman proposed that *the Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year to 5 April 2025* be adopted.

The Annual Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements for the year to 5 April 2025 were adopted.

2. Professor Beaton proposed the re-election of Moore Kingston Smith (former Williamson Morton Thornton LLP) as auditors and business advisors.

The Chairman noted that the re-election of Moore Kingston Smith (formerly WMT) was appropriate for the services they provided for the BSA.

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Moore Kingston Smith (formerly Williamson Morton Thornton LLP) as auditors and business advisors.

The Chairman also thanked the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Huw Smith, for all his work on managing BSA's accounts and supporting the Director in reporting to the British Academy.

The proposal to retain Moore Kingston Smith (former WMT) was accepted.

3. On the elections to Council, Professor Beaton reported that:

- a) On the nomination of its Search Committee, after an open competition, the Council had elected Professor Arlene V. Holmes-Henderson MBE, MAE to serve from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2030.
- b) There being no nomination by the Supporters, the Search Committee had nominated the runner-up in the open competition, Dr Angela Monaghan, to serve from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2030. Supporters approved this nomination.

- c) The Regular Members had elected Mr James Hua to Council for a period of 2 years to serve from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2028.
- d) Professor Beaton had been re-appointed as Chair of Council for a 4-year term until February 2030.
- e) Professor Robin Osborne had stood down after 8 years as Vice-Chair and Dr Dan Stewart had been elected as Vice-Chair for the remainder of his term as a trustee (until 31 March 2029).
- f) Mr Huw Smith, formerly Deputy Honorary Treasurer, had been appointed Honorary Treasurer.

The Chairman congratulated the new members of Council and wished them well.

4. Professor Beaton proposed amendments to the Statutes of the British School at Athens

The Chairman assumed Supporters had seen the proposed changes and explained that the new or replacement text in the document circulated with the AGM invitation was in red and explanatory comments were in green. He added that none of the changes were substantive, but that the AGM had the final say. The Chairman took the proposed amendments one by one:

Heading

‘Registered Charity No. 208673 PATRON: HRH THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES’ would be replaced by ‘Registered Charity No. 208673 PATRON: HM KING CHARLES III’
The amendment was approved.

2 OBJECTS AND FACILITIES

2.1 The principal object of the School shall be to promote the study of Greece in all its aspects. It shall be its aim in particular to provide facilities for those engaged in research into anthropology, archaeology, archaeometry, architecture, art, environment, geography, history, language, literature, *philosophy*, religion and topography pertaining to Greek lands in all periods including modern times.

The word ‘philosophy’ would be added following the acquirement of the Frede Collection.
The amendment was approved.

7 THE COUNCIL

7.2 The Council shall comprise:

7.2 (viii) the Chairs of the Committees for Archaeology; for Society, Arts & Letters; for Finance & General Purposes; *of the Fitch Committee* and of the Friends’ Committee.

Council had resolved that the Fitch Subcommittee shall become a committee of Council, and Annex A (Terms of Reference) would be updated accordingly. The chair of the Fitch Subcommittee would become a member of Council.

Prof. David Holton noted that the Fitch Subcommittee was referred to elsewhere as the Fitch Laboratory Subcommittee and the Chairman replied that this would be corrected to

read 'Fitch Laboratory Subcommittee', and in future 'Fitch Laboratory Committee'. The amendment was approved.

8 DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL

8.1 The Council shall:

8.1 (xi) appoint Committees responsible for Archaeology; for Society, Arts & Letters; for Finance & General Purposes; for Publications and *Research Dissemination*; for *Development*; for the Fitch Laboratory; for Governance; and for nominations, which shall be known as the Search Committee. The Council shall approve the terms of reference of such committees. (The present Committees and their terms of reference are set out in Annex A);

In addition to the Fitch Committee, other committees which reported directly to Council needed to be added here, with their current titles.

The amendment was approved.

10 POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

10.1 The Council shall have the following powers to further the Objects (but not for any other purpose):

10.1 (xxii) to accept gifts, donations and endowments in furtherance of the objects of the British School of Athens as set out in Statute 2 (above). This power is delegated to the Director as set out in Statute 13.5 (i) or other Officers of the School in accordance with its Donation Acceptance Policy of June 2022 (as amended from time to time with the consent of Council). The power to amend and improve the Gifts Acceptance Policy is delegated to the Governance Committee on behalf of Council.

The above new paragraph needed to be added, as recommended by Governance Committee and approved by Council, as it is an increasingly important part of Council's role to approve donations.

The amendment was approved.

12 PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL

12.7 Council may approve business by written circulation provided that a) seven days' notice is given of the date by which Council members must make known their opinion on the resolution in question; b) all material relevant to the resolution is circulated at least five days before the decision must be taken; c) an absolute majority of members of Council vote in favour of the proposed resolution; d) no member of Council asks for a discussion of the resolution prior to decision. If any member of Council asks for a discussion of the resolution prior to decision, a meeting of Council shall be held, either in person or on-line after due notice has been given.

The above new paragraph needed to be added, as recommended by Governance Committee and approved by Council. The Chairman explained that banks and other financial institutions were making increasing demands upon Trustees, and on recent occasions a written resolution of Council had been required at short notice in order to invest funds

received for the Stratigraphical Museum and to avoid closure of bank accounts. The Chairman assured the AGM that any substantive matters would not be dealt with this way. The amendment was approved.

5. A.O.B.

There was no further business.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Chairman invited everyone to attend the Annual Open Lectures.