

ODA LEGAL IDENTITY AND FUNDING

1. At a meeting of the ODA committee held on 28th January it was agreed (5 b) Proposal - to raise membership subs. (HD)

HD outlined that, to consider this proposal, we need to look at the whole budget as well as different business models. Given previous committee members' views, rather than increase subscriptions it would perhaps be preferable to consider a donation model where annual subscriptions would be a minimum of £10 with an added voluntary donation if members wished. A further suggestion was to consider becoming a charitable trust.

Action: *HD to enquire about the pros and cons of setting up a charitable trust and report back at the next committee meeting.*

The proposal to request a voluntary donation along with the £10 subscription fee will also be discussed at the next meeting.

NB the proposal was subsequently carried at the AGM held on 15/05/2026.

2. There is a great deal of advice from GOV_ UK on the pros and cons of setting up a charity. The major advantages are the opportunities to raise revenue through Gift Aid for charitable purposes. However, it seems after reflection and further discussion with the committee that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages, not least the burdens of initiating substantial constitutional, administrative, and legal change and additional financial reporting when the Association does not currently have a treasurer.

3. However, the Association must for the purpose of due diligence note that in an unincorporated body, directors or committee members may be personally liable for the organisation's debts if it operates at a deficit. Unlike incorporated entities, there is no legal distinction between the organisation and its members, meaning personal assets could be at risk if creditors seek repayment. It is therefore crucial for directors to understand their responsibilities and consider appropriate insurance or restructuring to limit exposure.

4. In continuing to manage our finances responsibly, we may have to use reserves for an extended period. The reference to timescale inevitably reintroduces the question of the life cycle of the Association. We celebrate our centenary in 2030, now only four years away, the longevity of the Association after 2030 is matter of conjecture but is inevitably finite for obvious reasons.

5.RECOMMENDED

1. That the legal identity and business model is kept under review within the overall financial context of the ODA
2. That a Working Party is set up to look at:
 1. how best to celebrate the centenary
 2. how best to ensure that the legacy of Dynevor is preserved after the lifetime of the ODA possibly through the establishment of an Educational Trust.
 3. The Working Party (WP), with membership to comprise the Secretary, Finance Officer, and four other members, preferably but not necessarily past presidents, representing the membership cohort and teaching staff. The WP chair to be decided by this group. The WP would be expected to seek legal advice as necessary. The WP to report to the ODA committee by not later than the AGM of 2029.

NB The motion to set up the WP was carried at the AGM 15/05/2026.

HYWEL M DAVIES (1967 -1974, President 2023-4) 02/03/26, updated 04/05/2026