

THE ARTS SOCIETY FYLDE.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2018. MINUTES.

Welcome.

The President, Hugh Ellwood, welcomed everyone to the 8th AGM.

1. Introduction.

Quoracy was noted. The Chair, Jo Darbyshire, thanked the President.

Seeking to clarify the apparent limited eligibility for nominating Officers and Executive Committee

Members she explained that the Pilot Study was still in progress and would not be completed until April 2018. The Constitution & Rules approved at the Annual General Meeting on 4th February 2015 and represented to an Extraordinary General Meeting on 3rd May 2017 with reference to the Society's name change are currently in operation. The pertinent clauses are: [i] 5a which states 'the Officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary, all of whom shall be nominated annually by the Committee for election at the Annual General Meeting' and [ii] 6c which states 'any Ordinary Member of the Society may propose and second members for election to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting'. The two non-Officer roles on the Executive Committee are for the Programme and Membership Secretaries.

2. Apologies.

W & K Cartmell, J Love, C Oldroyd, J & J Stirrup, G & L Tolson.

3. Minutes of AGM 1st February 2017. [previously circulated].

The Minutes, proposed by Gerry Corless and seconded by Hazel Pye, were accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Noted: Signed Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of 3rd May 2017 are available on the web site. A printed copy is available for reading from the Secretary.

4. Annual Report 2016-17 [previously circulated]

Reporting on the period 1st August 2016---31st July 2017.

The Chair thanked the Secretary, Executive Committee Members and Team Leaders who had contributed to the Report for enabling its publication well in advance of the AGM. She complimented the Team Leader Communications for her photograph which is on the front cover.

Referring to another successful year she specifically mentioned an excellent programme of lectures, a stable membership, more volunteers and well organised and interesting tours, visits and special interest days. However there had been two cancellations due to limited support explained in part by the competition presented by the number of similar activities offered by other societies in the area. She congratulated members John Parkinson who would be joining the National Arts Society Audit Committee subject to election at the AGM in May 2018 and Kate Cartmell, Team Leader Young Arts on her appointment as the NW Area Education Officer. Undoubtedly one of the major successes had been the Programme Launch Evening in November 2016 in which a number of new volunteers were recruited.

The Pilot was continuing and evaluation had revealed notable successes in succession planning and securing volunteers to support the many activities although more work was needed to address some aspects of management.

Two matters had occupied the Executive Committee/Team Leaders: [i] the national change of name with implications for communication and banking. The new name reflects the Trustees' vision to widen the interests to include a broader spectrum of the Arts, for example music, dance, opera. The Society is grateful for the work undertaken by the Team Leader Communication and the Treasurer in successfully achieving the change on time. [ii] the move to the Lowther Pavilion, Lytham in September 2018. The Executive Committee considered this at length and sought the opinions of members. There was overwhelming support for the move but a few expressions of dissent. Ultimately the more spacious facilities allowing for expansion and opportunities for socialising, better car parking, technical and publicity support and the opportunity to engage more easily with the wider Arts spectrum persuaded the

Executive Committee's unanimous agreement that such a move would be advantageous.

Considering the future, the Chair referred to potential projects in Young Arts, Heritage and Church

Recording which are costly and dependent on external funding. Whilst the Society had received

substantial support in the past, now it was becoming more normal for funding opportunities to require charitable status and a working group is currently researching the possibility of registration. This would necessitate changes in the Constitution & Rules and she encouraged members to read e-mails sharing information and seeking their views prior to an AGM/EGM.

Finally the Chair thanked all the volunteers, colleagues on the Executive Committee and Team Leaders for their hard work and valuable contributions for the Society. She made particular reference to the Secretary, Marion Nuttall, who was standing down from her role since the inauguration. She thanked her for the amount and quality of detailed work, her outstanding organisational and writing skills and successful project management sustained over 9 years.

This being her last meeting she wished the new Chair, Executive Committee and members every success in the future and thanked everyone for their support and friendship during her tenure as Chair. Proposed by the Chair, the Report was seconded by the Treasurer, Jean Holland, and accepted by the members.

5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts 2016-17. [previously circulated]

The Treasurer, Jean Holland, presented a summary Financial Report for the period ended 31st July 2017. The Report had been signed as a correct record by the Independent Financial Examiner, Jeremy Stirrup.

The Society ended the year [to 31st July 2017] showing a deficit of just over £2000 due mainly to a reduction in the number of Special Interest Days and therefore a drop in income with increased expenditure on storage and a Programme Launch Evening in November 2016. The latter successfully recruited more volunteers. Contributions to good causes included nearly £1600 for Young Arts, £1000 to the redevelopment of Lowther Pavilion and support for Church Recording, Art in Kirkham Prison and the textile project provisionally named 'Stitched Together---Strands in the Sand---The Fylde Coast'. The Treasurer explained that Reserves are surplus funds held in a Deposit Account and stressed the need to reduce expenditure and increase income in order to continue to enjoy the healthy financial position we have been accustomed to until now.

She concluded by thanking Jeremy Stirrup and John Parkinson [former Treasurer] for their support. The Report was proposed by Jo Darbyshire and seconded by Pat Corless.

6. Election of President.

The Chair thanked Hugh Ellwood for his friendship and advice given willingly at all times. She also thanked him for his generosity to the Society for whom he gave inspirational lectures free of charge. His re-election was proposed by Jo Darbyshire and seconded by Marion Nuttall.

7. Election of Officers & Executive Committee Members.

Elections were conducted by the President. There were no contested elections and members approved the following:

	Nomination	Proposer	Secunder
Officers			
Chair	Pat Corless	Pauline Hamilton	Marion Nuttall
Vice Chair	Nigel Bramley-Haworth	Jo Darbyshire	Pat Corless
Treasurer	Jean Holland	Christina McHugh	Marion Nuttall
Secretary	Christina McHugh	Jo Darbyshire	Pat Corless
EC Members			
Membership Secretary	Denise Malpas	Christina McHugh	Fiona Walmsley-Collins
Programme Secretary	Pauline Hamilton	Marilyn Smith	Jeremy Stirrup

8. Election of Independent Financial Examiner. The President, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Jeremy Stirrup for his work and advice in the past year and was pleased to propose him for the following year. The proposal was seconded by Pauline Hamilton.

9. President's thank you to Chair & Secretary.

The President thanked Jo Darbyshire for her unique leadership which, whilst maintaining the Society's reputation as a lively one, had made changes to the Society and how it was governed and managed. He praised her logical approach and awareness of legal matters pertaining to the present Society and its future saying she had definitely made a difference.

He seconded the Chair's comments in praise of the retiring Secretary, Marion Nuttall.

10. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 6th February 2019.

Marion Nuttall [Secretary]

09.02.18

Signature of Chair _____ Date _____ Pat Corless