



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2019

### MINUTES

#### Welcome.

The President, Mr. Hugh Ellwood, welcomed everyone to the 9th AGM.

#### 1. Introduction.

The President confirmed that the meeting was quorate. He explained to members the eligibility for nominating Officers and that points previously raised concerning the wish to make the procedure for nominating Officers more democratic would be dealt with under item 10 on the Agenda.

#### 2. Apologies.

K & H Bowker, K & V Harper, J Jay, M Johnston, J Lee, J Love, J Parkinson.

#### 3. Minutes of AGM 7th February 2018 [Previously circulated].

The Minutes, proposed by Sue Cornah and seconded by Barbara Parkinson, were accepted as a correct record and signed by Pat Corless [Chair].

#### 4. Annual Report 2017-2018 [Previously circulated].

Pat Corless [Chair], presented the Report for the period 1st August 2017 to 31st July 2018.

The Chair thanked the Secretary, Executive Committee Members, Team Leaders and Volunteers who contributed to the Report. She thanked Diane Taylor for her painting of Lisbon on the front cover and commended the 2018 RBA winners, whose work is pictured on the back.

The Chair assured members that the Society is well governed and financially sound. This is reflected in the fact that membership numbers are increasing. A recruitment drive and programme launch took place at the end of the financial year and have borne fruit. The 2-year Pilot Study has ended and the final report sent to TAS House in London. The findings and recommendations therein have been accepted by the Executive Committee and are being addressed. One of the pleasing outcomes is the high level of members' satisfaction on the way the Society is run and she thanked those members who had contributed to the Pilot Study.

She thanked the Executive Committee, Team Leaders and Volunteers for organising another enjoyable and successful year of lectures, study days, visits, tours, events, and opportunities to engage with Heritage and Young Arts volunteering projects.

Next year, the Committee wish to pursue new ways to engage with volunteering projects under the banner 'Community Arts', which would include Young Arts, and to continue seeking funding for the 'Stitched Together – Strands in the Sand – Fylde Coast', community embroidery project. The Committee will reconsider applying for charitable status as this would enable the Society to attract larger amounts of funding, and increase the number of Trusts and Foundations open to bids. Members will be kept informed of progress in this matter.

The Chair referred to the continuing success and expansion of the Society's activities all of which depend on a succession of new blood coming onto the Committee and supporting us as volunteers. Next year there will be vacancies for a Membership Secretary, and an Events Coordinator - a new role recommended in the Pilot Report. She invited members interested in either role to contact her or a member of the Committee; full guidance, training and mentoring would be made available.

The Chair thanked the members for their enthusiasm and involvement in the Society's programme of activities.

Proposed by Pat Corless, the Report was seconded by Pam Foster [Communications Officer] and accepted by the members.

The Chair mentioned the date of the AGM and explained the logistical problems encountered this year with the timing and distribution of the Annual Report. At a recent meeting the Committee agreed it would be more appropriate to move the AGM nearer to the end of the season's lectures and accounting period. There were no dissenting views from the members, therefore it is intended that the next AGM will be on 4th November 2020.

5 Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts 2017-2018 [Previously circulated in the Annual Report].

The Treasurer, Jean Holland, presented a summary Financial Report for the period ended 31st July 2018.

The Report has been signed as a correct record by the Independent Financial Examiner, Jeremy Stirrup.

The Society's General Account ended the year with a deficit of £251.00. The anticipated deficit was £2000; the reduced deficit is due to an increase in membership and profits from Events, Study Days and Trips. Overall, expenditure was in line with budget.

Contributions to good causes included £1000 for the restoration of 6 ivories for the Lytham St Annes Art Collection. Expenditure on the Church Record for the Fairhaven United Reform Church [White Church], and on Young Arts, came in less than budget. The balances will be used for further good causes.

The Treasurer thanked John Parkinson [former Treasurer] and Jeremy Stirrup for their support.

The President thanked Jean Holland and proposed the Report's adoption and it was seconded by Denise Malpas [Membership Secretary].

6 Election of President.

The Chair thanked Hugh Ellwood for his advice and support, and his commitment to the Society. Hugh Ellwood is an accredited lecturer and has offered his services to the Society to deliver two lectures this year: a fund raising lecture for the membership and a special lecture on board the cruise to the Greek Islands.

His re-election was proposed by Pat Corless [Chair] and seconded by Pauline Hamilton [Programme Secretary].

7 Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members.

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

|                                   | <u>Nomination</u>                | <u>Proposer</u>                  | <u>Secunder</u>                   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>                      | <b>Pat Corless</b>               | <b>Christina McHugh</b>          | <b>Pauline Hamilton</b>           |
| <b>Vice Chair</b>                 | <b>Nigel Bramley<br/>Haworth</b> | <b>Pat Corless</b>               | <b>Jean Holland</b>               |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                  | <b>Jean Holland</b>              | <b>Nigel Bramley<br/>Haworth</b> | <b>Denise Malpas</b>              |
| <b>Secretary</b>                  | <b>Christina McHugh</b>          | <b>Denise Malpas</b>             | <b>Pat Corless</b>                |
| <b>Programme Secretary</b>        | <b>Pauline Hamilton</b>          | <b>Denise Fagge</b>              | <b>Fiona Walmsley<br/>Collins</b> |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>       | <b>Denise Malpas</b>             | <b>Rita Calvert</b>              | <b>Lesley Peabody<br/>Brewer</b>  |
| <b>Communications<br/>Officer</b> | <b>Pam Foster</b>                | <b>Marion Nuttall</b>            | <b>Gerry Corless</b>              |

8 Election of Independent Financial Examiner.

The President, on behalf of the Society, thanked Jeremy Stirrup for his advice and work, done rigorously over the years, and was pleased to propose him for the following year. Nigel Bramley-Haworth [Vice Chair] also thanked Jeremy Stirrup for his valuable contribution to the Committee and seconded the proposal.

9 Special Resolution to amend the Constitution and Rules of The Arts Society Fylde [Previously circulated].

Referring to the Notice of Special Resolution which had been circulated with the AGM papers, the Chair explained that the majority of amendments, highlighted in bold, were due to updating the wording to comply with TAS new branding and current data protection regulations. The principal amendment was precipitated by a point raised by a member at the 2018 AGM regarding the election of Officers: Point 5 (a) The Officers.

Since the Society's inauguration the Officers have been appointed by the Committee. This procedure follows the Constitution and Rules model suggested by TAS House, London, and adopted by The Arts Society Fylde. The Committee agreed that the process of appointing Officers should be made more democratic. Nigel Bramley-Haworth had canvassed members' opinions on the matter and concluded that the Society should comply with modern practices for open elections.

Jo Darbyshire [previous Chair], spoke in support of the Special Resolution. Hugh Ellwood [President], said in his experience of other TAS Societies, the TAS model was still widely used. He fully endorsed the proposal to change the election process and urged the Chair to write to TAS House, London, to alert them to the discrimination in Point 5 (a) The Officers, in their Constitution and Rules template, and suggest that the removal of this discrimination would improve democracy within the organisation.

The amended clause in 5 (a) The Officers to read: ... *The officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary, all of whom shall be nominated annually by members for election at the AGM. To be eligible for election members must have belonged to the Society for a minimum of two years.*

The Special Resolution to amend the Constitution and Rules of the Arts Society Fylde was proposed by Nigel Bramley-Haworth and seconded by Jean Holland.

10 President's thank you to Chair and EC.

The President thanked Pat Corless for her professional leadership and enthusiasm through all the changes this year and for her drive and ambition for the future development of the Society. He complimented her on her public persona and the energy she brings to her role as Chair. He thanked the Chair and the Committee for their hard work and commitment to delivering a wide-ranging programme for the benefit and enjoyment of the members.

He commended the Society's lively, pathfinder, reputation it has within the TAS organisation.

11 Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Christina McHugh [Secretary]

11.02.19

Signature of Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Pat Corless