

The Arts Society Stratford upon Avon

Registered Charity number: 1177315

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 June 2023

Draft pending ratification at the 2024 AGM

1. **Welcome by the Chairman.** The meeting was attended by 131 members. The Chairman welcomed and thanked all attendees.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** there were three.
3. **Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting:** the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022, having been circulated in advance, were approved. Approval was proposed by Gillian Nussey and seconded by Gay Gott.

4. Chairman's Report

Received: the above report, previously circulated, copy in the minute book.

In addition to his written report, the Chairman made the following comments:

- (i) that newsletters had been placed on chairs and he encouraged members to take them away to give to friends who might be interested in joining STRADFAS;
- (ii) that membership renewal forms would be circulated electronically at the end of June;
- (iii) that there would be a community event in The Playhouse on the weekend of 22/23 July where STRADFAS would be represented and members could renew their membership in person;
- (iv) that the Trustees were proposing a modest increase in the membership fee to £52;
- (v) that he was grateful to his fellow trustees and committee members and to Lynne Reekes who had stepped down as trustee earlier in the year for their support and hard work.

The report, together with the proposal to increase the fee to £52, was APPROVED.

5. Treasurer's Report and Account for the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023

Received: the above reports, previously circulated, copy in the minute book

In addition to his written report, the Treasurer made the following points:

- (i) that the predicted £5,000 loss for the year end had, in fact, been a small surplus;
- (ii) that this had been achieved by better housekeeping decisions; successful negotiations with lecturers and greatly increased visitors' numbers;
- (iii) that the timing of payment to The Playhouse for this year would lead to larger outgoings in the financial year 2023/24; it was this one-off change in payment timing that had contributed to the surplus for the year 2022/23;

- (iv) that the increase in the membership fee to £52 was intended to ensure a break-even scenario;
- (v) that the service recharge from head office had not yet been confirmed.

With all the above points in mind, the Treasurer commended to the meeting the final audited Accounts for approval.

This was duly proposed by Lynne Reekes, seconded by Jan Smith and approved by the meeting nem con.

6. Confirmation of Auditors for 2023/24

Ian Johnson proposed (seconded by Cindy Musgrave) **Matrix of Stratford upon Avon** be appointed as auditors for this coming year. This was confirmed unanimously.

7. Election of Trustees

The following were elected as Trustees for the coming year (in line with paragraph 9(b) of the revised Constitution):

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| David Triggs | Chairman |
| Mr Ray Drury | Treasurer of the Committee |
| Mr Tony Hughes | Vice-Chairman of the Committee |
| Miss Caroline Johnson | Chairman of the Committee |
| Mr Paul Milliken | Independent Trustee |
| VACANCY | |

There were 13 abstentions.

It was noted that, despite a call for nominations for a sixth trustee, none had been received. It was also noted that there was a preponderance of men among the trustees while the committee membership (which no longer required the formal approval of the society's membership) was largely female. It was pointed out that, as all these posts were voluntary, there was little that could be done when so few members stepped forward to volunteer. The Chairman again urged members to consider filling the vacant roles.

8. Report from the Committee Chair

Received: the above report, previously circulated, copy in the minute book.

This report was noted.

9. Any other business

None

10. Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.10am.