

The Arts Society Stratford upon Avon

Registered Charity Number 1177315

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held at 10.30am on 15 July 2023

Draft pending ratification at the 2024 AGM

1. **Welcome by the Chairman.** The meeting was attended by 127 members. The Chairman welcomed and thanked all attendees. He explained the purpose of this meeting was to adopt changes to the Constitution of the Society and to note the changes made to the Byelaws (which, unlike those made to the Constitution, did not require the approval of members).

2. **Apologies for absence.** 3 apologies had been received.

3. Revised Constitution

Received: the above paper (previously circulated, copy in the minute book together with an explanatory note highlighting the proposed changes).

The changes were approved by the majority of the membership with 8 abstentions.

4. Revised Byelaws

Received: the above paper (previously circulated, copy in the minute book).

The Chairman acknowledged the concern of some members that the Byelaws appeared to have been amended to the detriment of those organising Day Visits and Extended Tours. Referring to a special bulletin issued to all members in May on this subject, the Chairman confirmed again that the 2023 amendments to the Byelaws had been made to ensure that practice reflected the Byelaws drafted by the Trustees in 2018 to accompany STRADFAS' submission at that time to the Charities Commission for charitable status which would permit the society to claim Gift Aid.

The Secretary noted that a member had come forward to volunteer to undertake the administration involved in extended tours while the Vice-Chairman would act as group leader for the Veneto trip. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman would act as group leader for the Ireland trip in April 2024. If, by that time, no-one had come forward to take on this responsibility, extended tours would cease until such time as someone did. In addition, currently no-one had been identified to organise Day Trips for the 2023/24 session.

5. Discussion of any other business

None

6. Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.50am.