



THE ARTS SOCIETY SIDMOUTH

Minutes of 6th Annual General Meeting of The Arts Society Sidmouth CIO held on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 10.30am at the Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth.

1. Welcome

Graham Gill (GG), Chair of the Trustees' welcomed everyone and said that despite a challenging year The Arts Society Sidmouth (TASS) had succeeded in providing a most enjoyable lecture and study day programme thanks to the Programme Secretary Anthea Cridlan and The Study Days Secretary Catherine Bech. Most of the monthly lectures were rated as excellent and the two study days as outstanding. The annual traditional Christmas lunch at The Victoria Hotel was expertly organised as usual by the Social Secretary Jan Sokell.

GG also thanked all the trustee and committee members for their commitments over the year to keep the Society afloat. All Trustee and Committee members are volunteers and opportunities are always open to members who may wish to become involved. GG stressed that it was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers and without them there would be no TASS which would mean the loss of an interesting and stimulating programme of lectures and the friendship that this brings.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Thirteen apologies for absence were received from members notably, Jean and Michael Jones, Margaret Moss, Pamela and David Harrison, Jan and Richard Barrett, Alison Black, Pat and Sally Rogers, Jenny Fricker and Chris and Janet Schofield.

3. Approve the minutes of CIO's 5th AGM

The minutes of the CIO's 5th AGM held on 7th June 2023 were duly agreed and approved.

4. To receive the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts and respond to Questions.

- a) The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st March 2024 was approved unanimously.
GG commented that a couple of trends have emerged in the report, firstly that membership numbers are dropping and are substantially lower than in pre – Covid times, over 100 fewer members and no waiting list.
TASS has not raised the usual financial surpluses from social events, visits and holidays due to a lack of activity in these areas since COVID. Therefore a loss of some £3300 in the year. The intention is to increase the membership subscription from £40 to £45 still providing excellent value at £5 per lecture. This will not resolve the financial concerns so these trends need to be reversed with some urgency. There are encouraging signs in that the Society's reserves are strong and another exciting lecture and study day programme is already secured for the year commencing October 2024.
- b) There have been a number of questions raised by one member for the Trustees attention mainly concerning the TASS Constitution. These have been answered directly to the member concerned. The Trustees' plan to review the Constitution in the future to check its relevance now it has been in existence for 6 years. If changes are identified a revised Constitution will be tabled for a members vote at an EGM.

5. To note the resignations of current Trustees

The resignations of Philip Hughes, Barbara Murphy and Gill Gill were duly noted and thanks expressed for their time and work in these roles. New trustees will be joining in the near future.

6. To authorise the Trustees' to agree the appointment of an Independent Examiner or Competent Person.

The motion to authorise the Treasurer was approved. Thanks were made to Philip Postlethwaite a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Accountants and a Society member who acted as the Examiner and executed a thorough job.

7. **To elect Officers and Committee members for the coming year.**

- a) The following Committee members have resigned namely Helen Roberts, Sue Stanbury and Philip Hughes. They are thanked for their involvement and work.
- b) Muff Dudgeon was duly elected to the Committee following her relocation to East Devon
- c) The following Committee members will remain in place and were duly re-elected en-bloc. Anthea Cridlan, Jan Sokell, Kim Wells, Catherine Bech and David Smith..

8. **To respond to any questions submitted to the Committee's attention**

There were no questions submitted for the Committee's attention.

Thanks to Philip Hughes

GG asked the members to recognise the dedication and service that Philip Hughes retiring Trustee and Finance Officer has committed to the original SIDDFAS now the Arts Society Sidmouth.

Philip has kept the books in exemplary order over a 7 year period including the liaison with the Charity Commission. He also supported the previous Chair of the Trustees Stuart Hockey and GG as Vice Chair and he is an enormous loss to TASS. As a volunteer he has gone above and beyond to support TASS and deserves the freedom to enjoy the rest of his retirement.

9. **Date of next AGM**

The date of next year's AGM will be 4th June 2025 at 10.30am in the Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth.