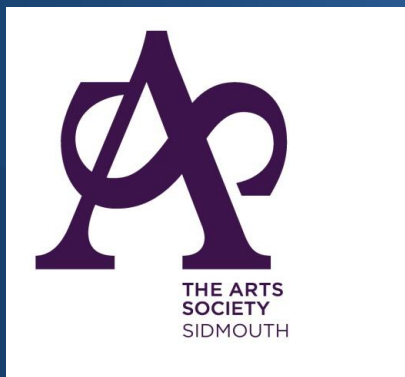




THE ARTS SOCIETY SIDMOUTH

Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Arts Society Sidmouth CIO held on Wednesday 4.6.25 at 10.30 am at The Manor Pavillion, Sidmouth

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Richard Barrett (RB) welcomed the membership and guests to the TASS AGM. Introducing himself as Chairman of the Trustees and TASS committee, or as it is increasingly known, the 'Team'

2. Apologies for absence

Seven apologies for absence were received from the membership

3. To approve the minutes of the CIO's 6th AGM held on 5.6.24

RB presented the minutes of the last AGM. Put to a vote, they were duly agreed and approved.

There was one matter arising: the Trustees have yet to devote their time to a review of the TASS Constitution. This will be considered at the next Trustees meeting and recommendations will be circulated to the membership for comment. Subsequent changes will be put forward at an EGM prior to a lecture.

4. To receive the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

RB thanked Philip Hughes, our former Society Treasurer, for compiling the Accounts and Accompanying Notes. RB pointed out that without Philip's support, and in the absence of a treasurer, TASS would have been liable for professional accounting services (one quote for which was £1400). On behalf of the Committee and the Membership, RB wished to record his gratitude to Philip.

No comments or questions on the accounts, previously circulated, had been received. The accounts had been examined and accepted by Sam Blackford (On Target Accountants of Ottery St Mary) for a nominal fee of £200. RB pointed out that without a volunteer to step forward as treasurer the Trustees will be obliged to invite On Target on a more formal basis for £400 p.a.

The accounts show a surplus at time of publishing although one donation is outstanding having been made in the current financial year and therefore not included.

The committee has decided to raise the membership fee for the forthcoming year to £56. This is by no means the highest in the Southwest and represents extraordinary value for the lecture programme Anthea Cridlan has arranged.

No vote was required on this agenda item.

RB was obliged to seek support to appoint an independent examiner of accounts for the year 2025/6 and proposed Sam Blackford for a similar fee as per this year.

The membership indicated their approval.

5. To note resignation and appointment of Trustees

Annette Cross has stepped down as a Trustee and TASS is indebted to her for her loyal service.

Two new Trustees have been appointed:

Steve Powley, a retired Headmaster

Christina Richards, a solicitor with WBW

The Trustees are delighted that they have consented to join, strengthening the board of Catherine Bech, Muff Dudgeon, Sheila Hughes and RB

6. To elect Committee members for the forthcoming year

Annette Cross has stepped down from her role as secretary after 8 years in post and David Smith has also tendered his resignation.

Re-election to be put to the vote en bloc:

Catherine Bech

Jan Sokel

Anthea Cridlan

Kim Wells

Muff Dudgeon

Richard Barrett

The vote was passed unanimously

The committee has been strengthened by the following members who had been co-opted during the year:

Jill Medcalf (arts volunteering)

Eleanor Selley (social)

Steve Powley (IT/strategic)

All three were proposed, seconded, and elected on a unanimous vote

7. To respond to any questions submitted to the committee

No questions had been submitted and RB invited members with any concerns to approach him after the meeting.

8. Chairman's report

For the Chairman this had been an interesting first year. The programme of lectures, special interest days and social events had been obvious successes. However there have been considerable behind the scenes work by the Team. Without naming them individually, RB thanked them all for their invaluable experience, energy and support, and expressed his pride in them and all the other volunteers who contribute to the welfare of TASS. He invited the audience to express their gratitude in the normal way.

RB also thanks Sheila Hughes, TASS president for keeping the Society on the straight and narrow. Philip Hughes departure had been keenly felt but the Trustees were very grateful for his support in retirement.

RB thanked the staff of the Manor Pavillion for accommodating TASS and Tony and Mike for their audiovisual expertise.

RB thanked Annette for her 8 years in post and presented her with a gift of appreciation. David Smith was also thanked with a small presentation, having worked with six Chairmen.

9. Date of next AGM

June 3rd 2026, at 10.30 in the Manor Pavillion