

Shaftesbury Arts Centre

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 22 March 2017

Attendees: V Baker, J Baldwin, J Buckland, L Buckland, J Butcher, J Cadmore, S Cadmore, J Churchill, R Cleal, S Cuff, T Cuff, G Ewart-Dean, D Goodrich, N Griffin, D Hollis, C Hughes, R King, H Lanchbery, C Lloyd, R Lloyd, M Longfoot, R Longfoot, C Montague, J Neaser, JC Parker, J Parker, B Pickard, K Pickard, J Pierce, M Pierce, S Pocock, J Ralph, R Ralph, S Roberts, V Rudd, B Rutter, Ja Rutter, Jo Rutter, P Ryley, A Smith, T Smith, G Spencer, J Swan, K Tippens, S Trim, C Walpole.

Proxies: Jo Cornelius, Ju Cornelius, L Jolliffe, C Ryley.

Apologies: B Arnold, R Drewett, J Gilroy, R Gilroy, A Harrison, K Harrison, A Hoskin, S Hoskin, S Lester, G Lewis, S Minshaw, S Neaser, B Pattison, M Pattison, E Rea, E Smith, C Stott, K Stott.

Welcome: The Chairman, Jenny Parker, opened the meeting by welcoming members and encouraging them to stay after the formal business had been completed to view the displayed plans of the Phase IV project and to network with other members and directors.

Resolution 1. Minutes: Nic Griffin proposed, John Cadmore seconded and the members agreed that the minutes of the last AGM of 24 February 2016 be accepted as a correct record and were signed as such by the chairman, Jenny Parker.

Matters Arising: In answer to Steve Pocock's question regarding the inclusion in the latest six-monthly programme of events of ABOP's contact details alongside those of SAC in-house groups, it was agreed that there should be a separation to prevent any confusion.

Chairman's Report: Jenny Parker referred members to her written report in the Annual Report, congratulating all on a very successful year. She then outlined the progress that has been made regarding Phase IV of the long-term buildings development project and recommended that, on the conclusion of this evening's official business, members view the plan drawings provided by the project architect, Proctor Watts Cole Rutter, and quiz any of the directors for more details. She confirmed to the members that a formal application for planning permission had been submitted to North Dorset District Council, and a capital funding application had been submitted to Arts Council England but that further match-funding was still required. She then thanked our patrons, sponsors, and all the SAC staff for all their efforts and continuing support.

Treasurer's Report: Pete Ryley re-iterated Jenny's comments on the successful year in all areas, and how, from a financial perspective, those successes had necessarily led to a financially successful year. He emphasised that all the main activity groups had delivered financial surpluses which along with membership and other income had more than met the central overheads of SAC. He also highlighted the successes of the fundraising teams, but also encouraged all to continue their efforts because SAC still needs to raise substantial matched funding for the Phase IV project.

In answer to a question from Steve Pocock, Pete Ryley informed the meeting that, as Treasurer, he had recommended that SAC appoint a professional firm of accountants to prepare the new format of annual accounts required by recent legislative changes, but that this year's fee included a set-up charge which would not be repeated in future years. He also agreed to a suggestion from Jo Rutter that in addition to the format of annual accounts required by the Charities Commission and Companies House, a simplified, preferably single-page, summary should be provided for members.

Resolution 2. Accounts: Nic Griffin proposed, Jo Rutter seconded and all members agreed that the Accounts for the period to 31 August 2016, as included within the Annual Report be adopted. Nic also commented that he had found the new format to show better how specific funding was used.

Resolution 3. Election of Directors: Jenny Parker informed the meeting that as Kevin Harrison had been appointed by the Board since the last AGM he had stood for re-election. She also confirmed that there were three directors retiring by rotation and standing for re-election (John and Sue Cadmore, and Ruth Drewett) and that one application to be a new director had been received (from Caroline Hughes). The five candidates for the five vacant director posts were (re-)elected without dissent.

Special Resolution: Change to governing document: Jenny Parker and Pete Ryley explained that SAC's governing document (the Memorandum and Articles of Association) contained a clause which required that each AGM should have "one-tenth of its current membership" to be quorate, and that now that SAC had c.500 members, that was considered to be too onerous: the Board had therefore recommended that that requirement be halved to "one-twentieth". John Butcher proposed, Julian Neaser seconded and the meeting agreed that the resolution be passed.

Any Other Business: Jenny Parker repeated her recommendation to members that they view the displayed plans of the Phase IV project and ask for further information from the directors, who she introduced individually to the meeting.

At 8pm Jenny declared the meeting closed.