

## **DRAFT Minutes of the Barnes Literary Society AGM held on 27 March 2019 at the OSO Arts Centre, Barnes Green.**

**Present:** Jane Skerrett, Chair; David King-Farlow, Vice Chairman; Sue Pandit, Honorary Treasurer; Caroline Kelsall, Kathy Owles, Jo Weinberger, Committee members, Kathy Kock & Penny Beck co-opted; Fiona Smith, Julian Glover, Isla Blair, Patrons and 20 society members.

### **1. Introduction by the Chair**

Jane Skerrett welcomed members and thanked them for staying on for the AGM. She highlighted the documents available to members including the agenda, minutes of last year's AGM, the annual report for the year ended 30 September 2018, and the financial accounts for year ended 30 September 2018, which were available to all present.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Louise Carr

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 18 April 2018**

The Chair noted there was a minor error in paragraph 10 which referred to the Membership Secretary but should be the Honorary Secretary. This will be amended. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Claire Boyling and seconded by Emma King- Farlow and the resolution to approve the minutes was passed on a show of hands.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Chairman's Report**

The Chair advised that she would not read out the entire report but pick out some key items. She reported that 2017/2018 had been very successful with well attended events and a range of excellent speakers including Jeremy Paxman; the American novelist, Lionel Shriver; James Runcie, novelist, film maker and producer and the Barnes resident, journalist and author, Ann MacMillan, in conversation with her sister Margaret MacMillan, the distinguished Canadian historian. The Chair noted that the programme had been well received, contributing to the higher membership take-up and the pleasing income figures that the Honorary Treasurer will expand upon in her report. However, she noted that the society must not be complacent about finances with additional expenditure required this year on the website.

The Chair commented on the huge success of the summer party featuring the Times journalist and author, Philip Collins, taking the society through some of the most famous and impressive speeches in history. The Chair extended her thanks to Louise and Nick Carr, and Kathy and Peter Owles, together with their army of helpers, for all their hard work in organising the event, she also thanked all BLS members who attended and supported the event.

The chair thanked Noel Davison for leaving a legacy in his will to help fund improving the website.

The Chair also thanked the BLS patrons, Isla Blair, Julian Glover, Roger McGough, Jan Pieńkowski and Fiona Smith; Venetia Vyvyan from the Barnes Book shop; the staff and trustees at the OSO and St Mary's Church; the BCA, with particular reference to Steve Mindel; the Barnes Bugle; web master Anne Cotgreave; and Alan Trehitt, the terrific sound engineer, for their continued support.

## **6. Treasurer's report**

Sue Pandit, Honorary Treasurer, referred members to the Income and Expenditure account and balance sheet for the year ended September 2018. She drew attention to the fact that income had increased by 12%. Subscriptions form the bulk of the BLS income and were up due to an increase in membership and there was also a substantial increase in guest fees. There was also an increase in income from ticketed events

The Honorary Treasurer commented that the net result was a surplus of £3372. This was the second year in a row that the society had delivered a surplus.

Turning to the balance sheet, the Honorary Treasurer noted that the society had two bank accounts. The cash in the current account totalled £8677 plus just over £4000 kept on deposit. General reserves now total £9070.

The Honorary Treasurer thanked the independent examiner, John Forbes, for his assistance with the accounts, noting that his report was included in the treasurer's report.

The Chair invited questions on the report. Geoff Kelsall asked what the increased assets would be used for. The Chair informed him that a substantial amount of the money would be needed to update the website.

## **7. Adoption of the annual report and 2016/17 accounts**

Adoption was proposed by William Mortimer and seconded by Jill Simeoni and passed by a show of hands.

## **8. Approval of the rates of subscription**

The committee have reviewed membership fees which have been at the current rate since 2014. The committee are proposing to change the membership fee for all to £30 per person for the 2019/20 season. The proposal for the change in the rate of subscription for the coming year (£30 for a single membership) was proposed by Fenella Deards and seconded by Sheila Hayward-Smith and approved on a show of hands.

## **9. Election of officers and members of the committee**

The Chair began by thanking the retiring member of the committee, David King-Farlow. She commented on how well David had booked venues and the sound engineer as well as ensuring that venues were appropriately organised on the day of events.

The Chair introduced two new committee members. Kathy Kock, a long- time resident of Barnes who will become the Honorary Secretary and noted that Kathy was a chartered accountant for Arthur Anderson, prior to retirement, and knew Noel Davison a former committee member. The Chair also welcomed Penny Beck as a committee member who

will take on responsibility for Publicity. Penny has worked in academic publishing both in the UK and abroad.

The Chair proposed that the elections be made en bloc and this was approved. The nominations and proposers and seconders are as follows:

<b>Post</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Chair	Jo Weinberger	Brenda Offredi	Andrew Cartwright
Vice Chair/ Membership Secretary	Kathy Owles	Celia Cleave	Brian Cleave
Hon. Secretary	Kathy Kock	Jo MacDermott	Heather Mackinlay
Hon. Treasurer	Sue Pandit	Celia Duncan	Caroline Proddow
Committee	Louise Carr	William Mortimer	Caroline Campbell
Committee	Caroline Kelsall	M. B. Beck	P. Beck
Committee	Penny Beck	Heather Parkinson	Jane Skerrett

The officers and committee members were proposed by Sarah Kearney and seconded by Celia Cleave and duly elected en bloc on a show of hands.

#### **10. Any other business**

There was no other business. The Chair commented that the current year was proceeding very well and thanked the members for attending. This was followed up by a thank you to all the elected members of the committee. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:45 pm.