

Friends of Putney School of Art and Design

DRAFT Minutes of the AGM held at 6.15pm on 11 November 2023 at

PSAD

There were 16 Friends of PSAD present at the start of the meeting, including Rob Dark, President, five trustees and four members of the Management Committee. Apologies received from Clare Frankl Bertram (Chair of the Trustees) whose husband had died very recently. The meeting was quorate.

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the President. He wished to send our condolences to Clare and her family. He mentioned that a former Head of School, Ray Barker, had died in the last year. Ray had fought the closure of the School, 20 years ago, and been a founder member of the Friends. As Head, he had brought his business acumen and skills into the team.

Minutes of 2022 AGM and matters arising

The draft minutes of the 2022 AGM had been circulated. The President gave a brief resume and the minutes were approved by Friends present. There were no matters arising not dealt with later.

Review of the year by Vicki Garthwaite, Chair of the Management Committee

Vicki thanked all members of the committee for their work and input over the year: Mark Hayman for coordinating the most successful Putney Art show and Nicole Hollingworth, for taking on the role of Membership Secretary with responsibilities for maintaining membership database and recruitment (we already have almost 350 members this year). Nicole and Fleur Tookey have been arranging some well-attended workshops, and Jane Allan was thanked for organising a series of popular lectures (Vermeer and tonight, Frans Hals). Merchandising sales are increasing under the stewardship of Fleur Tookey and Pamela Greene. Sniez Torbarina has worked tirelessly on updating and editing the website and newsletter and Marcy Richardson has been undertaking social media. Yvonne Guerrier was standing down as Treasurer and was thanked for all her work on the accounts. Damaris Albarran would be replacing her. Other Committee members standing down were Jane Allan (lectures), Alison Brooke (who had been on the Friends Committee since the Friends were formed), and Marcy Richardson. All were thanked. Vicki pointed out that we need more people on the Committee (we can co-opt members at any time in the year) and as volunteers to help with our work in fundraising for the School. We particularly need someone to take over social media.

The Christmas Fair had been most successful last year, with donations from professional potters and a “pre-loved” wall of paintings helping to increase our profits, all of which go to the School to buy essential equipment requested by staff. The Friends have bought many items of equipment for the School this past year, as itemised by the Treasurer in the accounts.

The President added that we should thank the staff at the School who had left this year and been so helpful to the Friends: Harsha (office), Andy (office and technical matters), Tony (who helped us to hang our exhibitions) and Michelle (café).

Trustees Annual Report of the Accounts for the year by the Treasurer

Yvonne Guerrier presented the report of the accounts for the academic year ending 8 September 2023. Fund-raising by the Friends had recovered from the period of the Covid pandemic, and it had been a good year with £31K income. Membership income had increased by 20% to £6K, the Xmas Fair had made a surplus of £5K, considerably more than last year. We had sold £11K of art works at the Summer Putney Art exhibition in the Exchange. Whilst lectures run at a loss, we made a profit from the popular workshop series this year. The Friends have therefore been able to give £9K to the school to purchase equipment, including drying racks, pottery wheels, and Aquatint for the print room.

Yvonne noted that we were moving away from cash and cheque payments. We have purchased several card readers for payment of membership, purchases of merchandise and pay-bar at social events. Membership can also be paid online via our website.

Yvonne was thanked for producing the accounts and she, in turn, thanked our Auditor, local accountant Richard Chadwick, who had approved the accounts, giving his services pro bono. There were no questions on the accounts and they were signed off on behalf of the Trustees by Vicki Garthwaite.

Elections

All Trustees and Committee members must stand down at the AGM. Voting took place by show of hands. The **new Committee were elected for 2023/24** by Friends present as follows:

TRUSTEES

Clare Frankl Bertram (Chair of Trustees) (proposed by Carolyn McMillan, seconded by Sniez Torbarina)

Victoria Garthwaite (Trustee and Chair of Management Committee) (proposed by Saffron Guy, seconded by Nicole Hollingworth)

Damaris Albarran (Treasurer) (proposed by Annie Eaton, seconded by Yvonne Guerrier)

Nicole Hollingworth (Trustee/ Membership Secretary) (proposed by Mary Funk-Butterworth, seconded by Alison Brooke)

Carolyn McMillan (Secretary) (proposed by Pam Williamson, seconded by Sue Shockett)

Sniez Torbarina (Website Editor) (proposed by Charlie Roe, seconded by Fleur Tookey).

All trustees also serve on the Management Committee.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mark Hayman (proposed by Josh Bernard, seconded by Pamela Greene)

Pamela Greene (proposed by Nicole Hollingworth, seconded by Pat Dark)

Yvonne Guerrier (proposed by Sniez Torbarina, seconded by Carolyn McMillan)

Fleur Tookey (proposed by Jane Theophilus, seconded by Vicki Garthwaite).

Additional committee members may be co-opted during the year for their skills/help organising lectures, parties, Putney Art, fair etc.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

Rob Dark and **Margaret Knott**, our founder members, were unanimously re-confirmed as Hon. President and Hon. Vice-President respectively, and were thanked for their continuing support.

Report on forthcoming year

The usual preview report was not provided for the coming year in the absence of the Chair of the Trustees. However, Vicki Garthwaite mentioned that the Friends had received a staff 'wishlist' of items of expenditure for next year that included disabled access (a lift) and carpets for the 3-D campus. These are items of capital expenditure which are likely to be too expensive for us to fund and are for the consideration of Enable. It should be noted that the 3-D campus is on a lease of 8 years. However, other items will be given consideration by the Friends such as notice boards and table-top easels. We have just bought a pugmill for the pottery studio.

There were no questions from the floor on the accounts or reports.

AOB

The President reminded members that if they pay for annual membership by Standing Order, they should check with their bank that the S.O payment was £12, the membership donation having been increased by £2 to cover our costs.

Some students are having difficulties paying online for an art course using Stripe. It was pointed out that this was a matter for the School, not the Friends.

Conclusion

Members were thanked for coming to the AGM. The meeting was then closed.

Date of next AGM

The next AGM is planned for Saturday 9 November 2024.