

Minutes of the Barnes Literary Society AGM held on 12th November 2024 at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes, SW13 9HE.

Draft minutes

Present: Sue Pandit (SP), Kathy Owles (KO), Kathy Kock (KK), Elaine Redler (ER), Reka Czegledi-Brown(RCB), Fina Mason (FM) and in excess of 50 society members.

1.Introduction by the Chair

SP welcomed everybody to the AGM and advised that the Agenda, AGM and Accounts had been available for everyone to see on the website for several days.

2. Apologies for Absence

Louise Carr (LC)

3.Minutes of the AGM held on 21 Nov 2023.

The resolution to approve the minutes was proposed by Asha Pandit and seconded by Fenella Deards and approved by a show of hands.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairmans Report

SP referred members to the detailed report online and said she would just highlight a few points:

Mortlake Community Association's email regarding the impact that the BLS grant has had on their Christmas activities and the list of all those receiving grants during 2023/24.

The membership fee for the year continued at £30, it has been at this level since 2014 and we now propose to increase it to £40 from the beginning of the 2025/26 season. We have increased our annual events to 7, so £40 represents less than £6 per event, most other local author events charge between £10 and £20 an event, the increase will enable us to expand our grant giving activities.

SP thanked the patrons for their support and the trustees who give their time for free and all the institutions around Barnes and Richmond who support the BLS:

- The BCA
- Sarah Arthur and The Bugle
- St Mary's Church
- The Barnes Bookshop
- Arts Richmond
- All the shops that put up BLS promotional posters.

Commenting briefly on the accounts, SP said that the BLS delivered a surplus before grants of £4128. After making donations of £4382 in the year the BLS ended with a net deficit of -£254. We aim to donate around £4500 a year. Given the strong reserves that we have built up over recent years we are confident that this level of grant giving is sustainable. Reserves are now standing at £32,351.

Number of members 374.

No questions arose on either the annual report or the accounts.

5. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts

The resolution to adopt the annual report and accounts was proposed by Juggy Pandit and seconded by Jenny Fraser and approved by a show of hands.

6. Approval of Rates of Subscription

The resolution to approve the increase in the annual subscription to £40 per person from the beginning of next season which starts in September 2025 was proposed by Liz Hughes and seconded by Jane Skerrett and approved by a show of hands.

7. Election of Trustees

SP outlined that there is no changes to the Trustees who all stand for re-election.

The resolution to elect the Trustees en bloc as set out below was proposed by Julian Glover and seconded by Helen Black and approved by a show of hands.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chair.	Sue Pandit	Fenella Deards	Sue Abrines
Secretary	Reka Czegledi Brown	Helen Black	Fenella Deards
Treasurer.	Kathy Kock	Asha Pandit	Jane Skerrett
Vice Chair/ Membership.	Kathy Owles	Juggy Pandit	Sue Abrines
Hospitality	Louise Carr	Fenella Deards	Caroline Kelsall
Events	Fina Mason	Sue Abrines	Rita Golden
Publicity	Elaine Redler	Rotha Bell	Juggy Pandit

8 Any other business

As no AOB was raised SP thanked all attendees on behalf of the Committee for coming early for the AGM.

RCB

12th November 2024