

Minutes of the Barnes Literary Society AGM held on 21 November 2023 at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes, SW13 9HE.

Draft minutes

Present: Jo Weinberger (JW)Kathy Owles (KO)Kathy Kock (KK)Sue Pandit (SP)Elaine Redler (ER)Louise Carr (LC) Reka Czegledi-Brown(RCB)Fina Mason (FM) and in excess of 30 society members.

1.Introduction by the Chair

JW 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

Isla Blair, Julian Glover, Tessa Barras

3.Minutes of the AGM held on 9 May 2023.

The resolution to approve the minutes was proposed by Eleanor Davis and seconded by Laurey Hughes and approved by a show of hands.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairmans Report

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

22/23 had been a wonderful season despite our first speaker being unable to come as he had just been made Chancellor of the Exchequer! We were very grateful to the wonderful Chris Blackhurst for stepping in.

Membership increased further to 395 and fees remained at £30 per person as they will for this season 23/24.

JW thanked the patrons for their support, the trustees who give their time for free and all the institutions around Barnes and Richmond who support us

-the BCA, Sarah Arthur and the Bugle, St Mary's, the Bookshop, Arts Richmond, the shops who put up posters etc.

Commenting briefly on the accounts, JW said that a surplus of £4730 had been delivered, similar to the previous year, so reserves stood at a healthy £32, 655.

A number of grants were bestowed to:

Mortlake Community Association

Arts Richmond

AfC Richmond
Lowther School

Trustees were also sent on a First Aid Course so there should always be someone to help in the event of an emergency.

Today the financial position remains strong with a large proportion of our members able to gift aid their subscriptions. The BLS continues to fund literary opportunities such as the creative writing course and have approved a number of new applications for grants from the Castelnau Centre, Mortlake Community Association, Arts Richmond and the OSO.

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 Stephen Beard and seconded by Juggy Pandit and approved by a show of hands.

6. Approval of Rates of Subscription

The resolution to approve the rates of subscription at £30 per person for 23/24 was proposed by Jenny Fraser and seconded by Stephen Beard and approved by a show of hands.

7. Election of Trustees

JW welcomed a new trustee on board Reka Czegledi-Brown recently retired from a very successful career in the City. JW also said that her stint as Chair had come to an end and expressed her gratitude to the BLS for having her. The new Chair is Sue Pandit, the current events secretary.

The resolution to elect the Trustees en bloc as set out below was proposed by Jane Skerrett and approved by Steven Mindel and approved by a show of hands.

Position	Name	Proposer	Second
Chair.	Sue Pandit	Laurey Hughes	Jane Skerrett
Secretary	Reka Czegledi. Brown	Stephen Beard.	Rita Golden
Treasurer.	Kathy Kock.	Juggy Pandit	Emma King Farlow

Vice Chair/

Membership. Hospitality	Kathy Owles Louise Carr	D. O Brien Crispin O Brien	Peter Beck Laurey Hughes
Events	Fina Mason	David KingFarlow.	Eleanor Davison
Publicity	Elaine Redler	Michele Spain.	Fiona Cater

8 Any other business.

Stephen Beard proposed a vote of thanks to JW for her successful stint as Chair and to all the Trustees for all their hard work and efforts to put on the events. The vote of thanks was seconded by Jenny Fraser and warmly approved by a show of hands.

JW thanked all attendees on behalf of the Committee for coming early for the AGM.