

## **Minutes of the Barnes Literary Society AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes, SW13.**

**Present:** Jo Weinberger (JW) Kathy Owles (KO) Kathy Kock (KK) Sue Pandit (SP) Elaine Redler (ER) and just over 40 society members.

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

JW welcomed everyone 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, Fina Mason, Julian Glover, Isla Blair

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 22 March 2022.**

The resolution to approve the minutes was proposed by John Deards and seconded by Laurey Hughes.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

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

2021/22 had been a wonderful season with all events live and back in the church. Membership increased to 364 after the covid dip and fees remained at £30 per person, as for 22/23 and the next season.

JW thanked the Patrons for their support and the Trustees for their hard work. She also paid tribute to Patrick Harvey who died this year. Patrick was a former long standing committee member and treasurer who gave a great deal of time and energy to the BLS.

She also thanked the many institutions who support the BLS including the BCA, Sarah Arthur/The Bugle, St Mary's, Barnes Bookshop, Arts Richmond and all the shops etc.

Commenting briefly on the accounts JW said that there was a healthy increase in income in 21/22, nearly all explained by the lifting of covid restrictions, resulting in reserves of £27,875 in the bank.

The big news of 21/22 was obtaining Charity Commission registration from December 2021 which has made a big difference to the BLS moving forward. In 22/23 there are 396 members, many of whom ticked the gift aid box to enable tax to be claimed back from HMRC.

The BLS can therefore continue to attract great authors as well as promoting literature by supporting a number of organisations and charities in our area with grants.

We have so far this season, 22/23, contributed to the new library at Lowther School, funded a film promoting a Young Writers Award for Arts Richmond, provided books for a book club for young people living in care and funded books for children at the Santa's Grotto in Mortlake.

JW asked the audience to encourage anyone they knew in the area who requires such funding to apply.

No questions were raised on either the report or the accounts.

## **6. Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts.**

The resolution to adopt the annual report and accounts was proposed by Michael Murison and seconded by Jane Skerrett.

## **7. Approval of Rates of Subscription**

The resolution to approve the rate of subscription at £30 per person for 23/24 was proposed by Sarah Kearney and seconded by Hilary Haynes.

## **8. Election of the Trustees.**

The resolution to elect the Trustees en bloc as set out below was proposed by Laurey Hughes and seconded by Heather Parkinson.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Chair	Jo Weinberger	Sanchi Murison.	Laurey Hughes
Secretary/Events	Fina Mason	Peter Owles	Eggie Kock
Treasurer.	Kathy Kock.	Michele Spain.	Eleanor Davison
Vice Chair/ Membership	Kathy Owles.	Eleanor Davison.	Belinda Darnton
Hospitality.	Louise Carr	Laurey Hughes	Sanchi Murison
Events Secretary	Sue Pandit	Belinda Darnton.	Michele Spain
Publicity.	Elaine Redler	Eggie Kock	Peter Owles

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business and JW thanked everyone for attending.