

POOLE and EAST DORSET ART SOCIETY
Annual General Meeting
August 01 beginning at 14:15
Alderney Manor Community Centre

MINUTES

Chaired by Jacqui Gush

17 Members present, including: Trustees, Jacqui Gush (JG), John Biggs(JAB), Pam Marshall(PM), Sally Holland, Carol Cox(CC), David Roberts (DR); GUS sub-committee, Liz Magee(LM), Barry Kavanagh,

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Lyn Robertson, Barbara Ward, Dawn Goodson, Val Taylor, Sally Wimpres, Sue Huskinson, Joy Gow, Sarah Moore, Carol Maunder, Jan Wall, Pam Philip, June Knighton, Carole Gadsby, Linda Knox, Penny Wilton, Rosemary Bastick, Dick Hewitson, Wendy Stanford.

JG welcomed all and announced that since we were only 17 in number, the meeting would not be quorate. We had also failed to reach a quorum on a Zoom AGM, two weeks ago. It would seem that a proportion of our Membership were reluctant to attend meetings at this time. However it was felt that we should carry on with the following reasons and provisos:

- We are required to conduct an AGM each year;
- Having postponed or abandoned previous arrangements due to COVID restrictions etc. it would seem that another attempt would be equally disappointing;
- This meeting would conduct the Agenda, circulate Minutes to the Membership and give all a chance to make representation, before adopting them as a record of AGM 2021.

2. Minutes of last year's meeting and matters arising.

JG read through the main points of the Minutes and explained how outstanding questions had been dealt with. It was agreed as an accurate Minute of the meeting.

Proposed: Val Willetts

Seconded: Pam Marshall

3. Chair's Report.

JG referred to her full report previously made available to members. She summarized the items in the report by concentrating on the ways PEDAS adapted to the conditions of the pandemic, with on-line activities like the gallery, blogs and regular weekly exercises, and how we all look forward to returning to some form of normality, with the start of the new programme in September.

Some new initiatives have been started this year like joining with a UCP programme on Wellbeing and the forthcoming ArtProLoco over August Bank Holiday. In addition we are trying to work more closely with other local art groups, like Broadstone, with whom a joint exhibition is planned in the new year.

Our first Annual Report to the Charity Commission will be made shortly.

Another initiative for the coming year was to work on an improved and effective use of social media, in particular the use of Instagram. JG invited Steph Jones, who has already started working on this initiative for PEDAS to introduce and say a few words to the members about the benefits of Instagram.

JG also acknowledged omission of John Bowen from the names of members who had died during the last year.

4. Treasurer's Reports.

PM introduced the amalgamated accounts for PEDAS and The Gallery Upstairs, which had been compiled in line with the Charity Commissioners' requirements. PEDAS ended 2020 with a balance of £6624 and GUS stood at £6476. The Gallery made a loss over the year due to lack of exhibitions and to planned maintenance in the Gallery.

PM also explained the use of the 'donation', as a term used by the CC. In effect this meant fees/subscriptions.

A question from the floor concerning the payment of £833 from PEDAS to the Gallery could not be accurately answered at the meeting but will be investigated and reported to the membership.

[Answer: The query regarding money paid to the gallery - most of that money was commission which Pedas paid GUS, in this case from the 2019 Open. It also included all requirements to do with Covid - sanitiser, cleaning fluid and paper towels.](#)

5. The Gallery Upstairs Report.

LM reported that despite repeated lockdowns, there had still been a number of exhibitions at the gallery. Forthcoming bookings were healthy. She commended the "Birds of our Shoreline" installation that has gone up on the ceiling of the passage to the courtyard.

Liz also gave a heartfelt tribute to John Bowen, our much-loved President since 1985, who died shortly after attending last year's AGM. He was instrumental in building the PEDAS we know and will be sorely missed.

The full text of all presentations can be read on the PEDAS website in the Members' section under AGM.

6. A new President?

Before moving on the business of the AGM, the opportunity was taken to talk about the issue of the role of President. JB explained that the Trustees had given some thought to the matter and outlined what sort of role a President should play, but that no appointment had been made. There was general agreement that we do need to find a President and that they should:

- Have an established (maybe historical) relationship with PEDAS;
- Be an established artist of some repute;
- Provide a link to the art world of the wider district (Dorset/Hampshire) and open doors to new and challenging projects.

It was left that Trustees should pursue this search but no authority to act was obtained at the meeting.

A few names were mentioned: Helen Talbot, Tony Paul, Rob Adam, Frances Hatch, Jeremy Gardiner.

The question of a defined term was also mentioned: 5 years renewable or not on both sides seemed to be about right, with the right of both parties to terminate with notice at any time.

7. Committee changes.

Trustees:

Linda Honeyborne has stepped down as a Trustee. JG thanked her for her contribution to the club. Linda was particularly skilled in IT matters and made some significant and extremely useful changes to the administration of the club as well as being responsible for the design and relaunch of the websites. Whilst no longer being a Trustee, LH will continue to be our IT consultant and continue her invaluable contribution to the running of PEDAS and the Gallery.

Steph Jones has agreed to stand as a Trustee.

Vote on the Motion:

Members are invited to elect Steph Jones as a Trustee.

AGREED: Steph Jones was elected as a Trustee of Poole and East Dorset Art Society.

Under our Constitution, according to rules of the CC, one third of trustees resign at each AGM. John Biggs, and Sally Holland will stand down at this meeting and members were invited to re-elect them as Trustees.

Vote on the Motion:

Members agree to re-elect the existing Committee Members, John Biggs and Sally Holland, as Trustees.

AGREED: John Biggs and Sally Holland were re-elected as Trustees of Poole and East Dorset Art Society.

Officer appointments:

The following positions remain unchanged:

Chair:	Jacqui Gush
Secretary:	
Treasurer:	Pam Marshall
Gallery coordinator:	John Biggs

The Gallery Upstairs Sub Committee to continue:

Joy Gow, Barry Kavanagh, Liz Magee

8. Resolutions and questions for discussion from the floor.

Legacy:

JG explained that we have been left a legacy of £500 in the will of former Member Yvonne Bottwood. Rather than absorb it in our funds, we have already been looking for ways to use it in a constructive and memorable way. We asked all Members for ideas and responses have been:

- A sound system and camera that can be used at workshops and other events;
- an annual cash prize for ' most deserving member' , based on member voting;
- a prize, such as a rose bowl to be held for one year by winner of Member voting at an exhibition;
- purchasing a mount cutter for members' use;
- to pay for nude models, a particular love of Yvonne;
- Carpet for Gallery;
- Christmas party fund;
- PEDAS's 100th birthday celebration in 2024, of the founding of our club (Yvonne Bottwood was born in 1924 and she did love a party).

Trustees felt we needed to decide whether we should spend the money on a lasting, practical and useful object or to spend it on something hedonistic and enjoyable. Trustees recommend either a sound system or the 100th Birthday Party.

Vote on the Motion:

Members would prefer to spend the Yvonne Bottwood legacy on something permanent and useful rather than a party such as our 2024 100th Anniversary.

AGREED: The Yvonne Bottwood legacy is to be spent on a sound system and camera.

9. Any other business.

Hayloft:

The result of the Membership wide vote on the proposal to "pledge" £1,000 to the Hayloft Gallery bid to purchase the gallery and continue its use, was announced. 39 votes were returned, of which 32 voted in favour and 7 against. There was still some minority, vociferous opposition to the idea but given the convincing democratic decision, the result stands.

ACTION: £1,000 be pledged to the "Save the Hayloft" fund, with £500 each from PEDAS and GUS accounts.

Subsequently, we have learnt that they did not reach their required amount by the deadline, hence the money pledged will not be drawn down. However, they are continuing to fund raise as they have been given an extended deadline.

There was a suggestion from the floor that name badges are adopted at PEDAS meetings.

Close of AGM

Tea was served and members shared some of their work as participants circulated. Informal discussion took place.