

POOLE and EAST DORSET ART SOCIETY  
**Annual General Meeting**

06 March 2022 @ 2.30pm  
Holy Angels church hall, Lilliput Road

## **MINUTES**

Chaired by Jacqui Gush

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** Jeff Hill, Michael Sandy, Val Taylor, Linda Honeyborne, Lorraine March, Teresa Senior. Tracy Chambers, Norma Rawlings, Wendy Sandford, Sally Wimpres.  
The meeting was easily quorate with 43 members attending.
- 2. Minutes of last year's meeting and matters arising**  
Minutes accepted as true record of the meeting. All actions have been done. Legacy money was spent on sound system to be used today. Hayloft donation pledge money was not taken as the building was sold. The first Annual Report to CC was sent with no response from CC.  
Proposed: David Roberts  
Seconded: Carol Cox
- 3. Trustees' Report from the Chair:**  
Trustee report, previously circulated, was not read out in full.  
JG gave a review of the year that has seen us "getting back to normal", with reference to changing from Thursday evenings to Wednesday pm, Public charitable events of Pro-LoCo and Wellbeing courses with BCPCouncil, collaboration with BAS at Gather exhibition and workshops in Poole Dolphin Centre, Birds of our Shoreline project and our progress in growing our social media profile. Steph Jones cited some up to date statistics for hits on social media to illustrate the growing popularity of digital media for publicity.
- 4. Treasurers' Reports:**  
Pam Marshall presented Aggregated Accounts for both PEDAS and GUS for the period from Jan to December 2021. The final balance for both accounts was over £14,500, split nearly equally between them. Healthy balances were achieved at all exhibitions last year. Major unusual expenses were £640 for legal fees in association with the Licence to Occupy the gallery and £440 for the sound system. Pam explained that the proposal to increase subscription fees to £35 per person per year from January 2023 was due to falling membership numbers, increased expenses such as tutors, and the wish to be able to offer a full and exciting programme of events through the year. Joy Gow explained the accounts for GUS. Since reopening in May, income has been steady. Over the pandemic period, payment to UCP had lapsed and we will be facing a large bill to catch up. We have negotiated a 50% reduction in contributions to UCP for 2020/21 and the Birds project cost has been shared with UCP resulting in a contribution of £730 towards the TV monitor. Despite the resultant invoice of around £3,500, the budget is resilient enough to accommodate it.
- 5. The Gallery Upstairs' Report:**

Liz Magee reported a full programme of exhibitions since the restart in May with 17 exhibitions rebooked for the future. So the Gallery continues to be popular. There were around 7,500 visitors in each of the last two years, when we were open for six months in each. The TV Monitor is installed but its operation is still in its infancy. We are working with UCP to make it an addition to our publicity and get people upstairs. She urged all members to use facebook to publicise the Gallery by posting whenever they visit. Every little helps. The Gallery is fully booked this year apart from the traditional charity exhibition just before Christmas.

#### **6. Committee changes:**

Under our Constitution, according to rules of the Charity Commission, one third of trustees resign at each AGM. As longest standing Committee members, Jacqui Gush and Pam Marshall will stand down at this meeting and members will be able to re-elect them as Trustees.

#### **Motion 1:**

Members agree to re-elect the existing Committee Members, Jacqui Gush and Pam Marshall, as Trustees.

#### **Vote on the Motion:**

Jacqui Gush and Pam Marshall, were unanimously re-elected as Trustees

#### **Officer appointments:**

The following positions remain unchanged:

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

#### **New Trustees:**

Susan Huskinson has agreed to become a Trustee.

#### **Motion 2:**

Members agree to elect Susan Huskinson as Trustee.

#### **Vote on the Motion:**

Susan Huskinson was unanimously elected to become a Trustee

#### **The Gallery Upstairs Sub Committee to continue:**

Joy Gow, Barry Kavanagh, Liz Magee, Steph Jones to join the Sub Committee.

#### **7. Resolutions and questions for discussion from the floor.**

##### **a) Increase in Membership Annual Subscription**

Increase to £35pa was agreed at the AGM in 2017, with a proviso to postpone if budgets allowed. This has been continued until now but conditions have changed: membership numbers are lower since the pandemic; attendance at events is smaller and; we wish to continue a

high standard of tutors and demonstrators at our sessions. An increase is now proposed to begin with re-enrolment for 2023.

### **Motion 3:**

Annual Membership subscription will increase to £35 per person from January 2023

#### **Vote on the Motion:**

Increase of Annual Membership subscription to £35 per person per year, was unanimously accepted.

#### **b) The role of President and Artistic Patron**

Following discussions with Members, Trustees have considered the need for a President for PEDAS. Having approached a few professional artist candidates who pointed out that the job description was too onerous, they concluded that the role should be divided between two people: A President and an Artistic Patron.

The President would act as an ambassador/champion, forging links with other organisations, representing PEDAS and working with the Artistic Patron to provide a sense of direction and challenge. It was felt this would best be done by a Trustee.

The Artistic Patron would be a practicing artist with a strong local reputation and standing in the art community. Their role would be to provide artistic direction for the club and to set projects for members either by themselves or by using their art community contacts.

Both roles would be for a period of three years. Helen Talbot is to be paid a fee of £400 pa for a minimum of 4 sessions .

It is proposed to appoint John Biggs as President and Helen Talbot as Artistic Patron.

#### **Discussion:**

Pat Burnham, who has been organising the PEDAS archive, raised the point that past Presidents have been nationally- known, prestigious figures in the art world, such as Gerald Kelly, also President of the Royal Academy. Should we not be continuing that tradition?

It was explained that, whilst PEDAS was originally formed as a club for established professional artists, over recent years, since the 1980's at least, it has altered its ethos to be a more inclusive club for mostly non-professional artists and that we do not have "nationally prestigious" artists in our membership. Furthermore, we have approached well-known local artists, like Frances Hatch, Martyn Brewster and Abi Kremer and all have declined, saying they were too busy to do justice to the role. We concluded we needed an artist to guide our development but that the "ambassador" role would be better done by a Trustee.

Linda Knox asked why, since we have a resume for Helen, there was not one for John Biggs. John gave a brief review of his association with PEDAS and his experience, links with and standing within the local art community.

#### **Motion 4:**

PEDAS creates the roles of President and Artistic Patron to provide artistic and organisational direction and that these roles be for a period of three years.

#### **Vote on the Motion:**

Agreed unanimously

#### **Motion 5:**

John Biggs be appointed President

#### **Vote on the Motion:**

Agreed unanimously

#### **Motion 6:**

Helen Talbot be appointed Artistic Patron. To be paid £400pa for a minimum of 4 sessions

#### **Vote on the Motion:**

Agreed unanimously

### **8. Any other business**

2024 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Poole and East Dorset Art Society. We need to think how to celebrate. Suggestions were an exhibition at GUS or Poole Museum and a garden party at Upton Country Park.

Linda Knox expressed concern that a limit of £200.00 for each piece shown on the Online Gallery was too low, given that it is the shop window for members.

There was sympathy from the attendees. Trustees explained that the limit was as a result of being a charity and the need to avoid conflict with personal profit. The Committee will look into this matter and reconsider the strategy. There are already thoughts of making the website gallery more a means of connecting artists with interested buyers, with no indication of costs or prices.

**ACTION: Trustees to review how the on-line Gallery should operate.**

Carol Dowty expressed disappointment at the change to afternoon sessions since it meant that working members were unable to attend. Trustees accepted this was an issue but it seemed necessary, given the very poor evening attendance in late 2021. The matter will be kept under review.

Pat B expressed concern at the lack of hard copy archive material since 2010. Chair to invite PB to attend next Committee meeting to talk about the archive. A digitised archive was suggested.

**ACTION: PB to attend Committee meeting to help resolve outstanding issues with Archives**

### **Close of AGM**

Following tea, John Biggs gave a further illustrated talk and discussion on the theme for Dorset Art weeks, "In My Life".

NOTE: A transcript of all reports can be found on the website.