

POOLE AND EAST DORSET ART SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019, 2.30pm Lilliput Church Hall, Poole

MINUTES

Chair of Meeting: John Biggs (JB)

In attendance: 40 Members

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair (JB) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Norma Rawlings, Graham Chandler, Clare Hadley, Hilary Bithell, Judith Hern, Jan Wall, Robin Bishop, June Knighton, Caroline Robertson, Val Taylor, Carolyn Fields, Jacqui Gush & our President John Bowen.

**2. Minutes of last year's AGM of Feb 2018 and matters arising**

With reference to the Treasurers' reports Peter Greenwood had raised the point that we had been operating against the regulations of the old Constitution regarding the number of bank accounts the club held. JB pointed out that we have now agreed a new Constitution, but should we not get our Charitable Status we can return to a renewed version of the old Constitution. We are proposing to leave it for now, but when we know the result of our charitable status application, we will either make the necessary changes to the old constitution or add a policy document to the new constitution, setting out how we manage our finances. Pat Burnham asked why there were two accounts, JB said GUS account needs to be separate from the main account. He added that there might be a need for another EGM later this year to deal with the decision of the Charity Commission. The Minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting. Proposed by Pat Burnham; Seconded by Sarah Moore.

**3. Minutes of EGM on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

Chair reminded us that the EGM was called to get membership approval of the new Constitution. The Minutes of that meeting had been circulated. Proposed by Dawn Goodson; Seconded by Marisa Robertson as a true representation of the meeting.

**4. Annual Review from our President**

John Biggs had visited John Bowen in hospital last week and found him keen to talk about PEDAS, its future and how we see the Club in 5 years' time ... something we would discuss later in the meeting. JB spoke of how John Bowen

continues to be an inspiration to the club and how he had, with others, pulled it through difficult times in its history.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Pam Marshall presented the PEDAS accounts saying the finances are in good shape with £6232 in the bank currently, which is a similar figure to last year. The running costs have gone up slightly across the board. Sundays' income was less in 2018; the lecturers slightly more, and the Church Hall slightly less. Exhibitions were down £36. The idea is that the club should break even. Peter Greenwood asked about the Church Hall cost and Pam explained the anomaly.

There had been a rollover from trips from 2017. Carole Gadsby asked whether the £150 donation had been made to Lewis Manning Hospice Charity following previous year's AGM decision. Not so, but Pam agreed to do that immediately. It was also noted that the money planned for Steve Place's help should be paid. JB suggested it would be reasonable that any left over money from the trips should go to Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Services. This was discussed and agreed.

Peter Greenwood and Sally Wimpress raised the matter of paying for the legal fees in our quest for charitable status. It was confirmed that the legal people had not yet started work on the chargeable element. Peter asked if the solicitors were independent of Borough of Poole. JB confirmed this.

Joy Gow presented the Gallery Upstairs' accounts. In a comparison of two calendar years it was noted that the net surplus this year is larger because there had been a decision to slow down spending by the gallery until we knew the course of events. There had been an increase in the daily hire charge (to £10 & £15), also a commission of 10% per sale is now applied which is included in the income figure. Peter asked whether this commission would be applied to fund the CC application. Joy said the gallery needed to increase its income to meet the request for an annual payment from UCP and 2018 was the first year of this. Peter asked how we anticipated spending next year. John said if we get charity status next year we will start spending again.

UCP is purchasing lights with the money (£1500) we had already paid to the park. It transpires that there are advantages to funding the lighting through UCP. Dawn asked whether that included the gallery redecoration. Joy replied that that was listed under *maintenance*, and the same as last year, £800. Dawn thanked GUS/PEDAS for not charging commission for the recent MotorVation exhibition for Motor Neurone Disease charity.

JB said that as we are not in monetary difficulties we will keep the membership fees for 2020 at the current level. However, he cautioned that once we become a charity things might look different... we will have to see.

Peter asked what happens if the gallery has to draw down on PEDAS accounts?

JB said in that case we might have to bring it to an AGM and ask members' opinion, adding 'we do not want to drain PEDAS for the gallery'.

Joy reminded us that we run the gallery on behalf of the B of Poole, and Jeff added that in a sense the money in GUS account belongs to the B of Poole not PEDAS. PEDAS people run it. Liz said the gallery stops if it is not making the income it needs.

## **6. Chair's Report**

JB said it had been a busy, exciting and fulfilling year, steering PEDAS through the complexities of our application to Charity Commission. He thanked the committees for their advice in reading documents and checking we are going the way we want to. The Newsletters carried these deliberations. JB asked if members are happy that we have communicated enough. This was confirmed, 'yes'. 11

Application to the CC has been made however they are 4 or 5 months behind in their workload.

Heads of Terms has been signed and gone to the council, subject to turning into legal documents; after which we employ solicitors to check that it is safe to sign.

JB welcomed new Members over the year.. Lily Wilson, Carol Dowty, Nicole Rijks, Steph Jones, Julia Wilkin, Lynne Williams. None in attendance.

Caroline is no longer organising Sunday sessions, and Pat B has stepped down from Thursdays. Since then Sally, Linda and Pam organise both Sundays and Thursdays. Dave Hendrey still manages the website, keeping us informed. Anne and Julie are still doing the teas on Sundays... if a little reluctantly. Carolyn Fields is continuing to organise the summer plein air events. JB invited thoughts on that and Anne Hartman commented that people tended to be scattered and we need a central hub, even kettle/cafe & toilets, and to make it more social. Re the gallery, JB thanked Joy for being treasurer for GUS and also Liz, Barry, Norma and Val who is stepping down. He thanked Pam for being treasurer for PEDAS.

JB raised the issue of succession for PEDAS and GUS, noting the need for Members to come onto the committees. JB feels GUS may be more at risk than PEDAS. Perhaps members might consider shadowing committee for a year?

## **7. The Gallery Upstairs' Report**

Liz Magee presented the Gallery Upstairs Report, praising JB for his persistence and patience. The focus has been on admin and insurance rather than thinking about Art. She reminded us of the fantastic space we had in GUS; that it is of benefit to the local area, and its importance to other artists. The waiting list now goes up to 2021. The money spent on the gallery is the minimum, but we might have to replace the boards on the wall, described as more filler than wall. There were 22 exhibitions last year including paintings, sculpture, textiles, photography; also there had been the pop-up exhibition in the gap after Christmas. Highlights had been Dorset Art Weeks *Modernism meets UCP* and charity exhibitions which Liz felt were a very humbling thing to be part of. Liz said social media is the best way to publicise. Just take a photo of an exhibition, upload it on Facebook and Instagram and ask friends to *like, share and comment*. Norma had a YouTube video made to promote the gallery but it has only been viewed 132 times.

#### **8. Questions for discussion from the floor**

We decided to move the questions and discussion session till later, after the tea break. (Carolyn Fields was unwell and not able to give her talk on pastels which had been planned for after the tea break)

#### **9. Committee changes**

Carolyn Fields, Anne Peterson, Caroline Robertson stepping down from the committee and Val Taylor is stepping down from both PEDAS and GUS committees. None present, so thank you gifts will be delivered to their houses.

#### **10. Nominations for Committee**

Members were invited to agree existing Committee Members for re-nomination: John Biggs, Jacqui Gush, Sally Holland, Linda Honeyborne and Pam Marshall. Proposed by Barbara Ward, Seconded by Jane Collins  
New Committee nominations: Carol Cox and Linda Knox.  
Proposed by Jeff Hill and Seconded by Marisa Robertson. All duly elected.

#### **11. Officer appointments:**

Nominations for Officers:

Chair: Jacqui Gush

Proposed by Dawn Goodson, Seconded by Dorothy Fox

Secretary: none

Treasurer: Pam Marshall continuing three year commitment.

Gallery Coordinator: John Biggs

Proposed by Jackie McKeown, Seconded by Liz Magee

Nominations for The Gallery Upstairs Sub Committee:  
Joy Gow, Barry Kavanagh, Liz Magee, Norma Rawlings, John Biggs  
Proposed by Marisa Robertson, Seconded by Anne Hartman

## **12. Any other business**

Anne Hartman thanked us all, PEDAS & GUS Committees, and Pat and Caroline for their running of the Thursday and Sunday sessions.

Peter made the point that we are expecting a solicitor's bill of £1500 because of the gallery, which could be half our income for one year, while GUS's revenue income had increased by 2K already. As the solicitor's bill would be incurred to keep the gallery, should not the fee be GUS's responsibility?

JB replied that PEDAS is the governing body. The last AGM told us to keep running the gallery. JB said 'there's a lot to be said for sharing that [cost]'.  
Jeff pointed out that we should remember that the legal expenditure is to protect PEDAS members from claims arising from the Gallery.

Sally Wimpres said we only need to be a charity in order to sign the Contract. JB agreed we cannot sign it as an unincorporated organisation. Liz wanted us to remember that because we run the Gallery it saves PEDAS £670 every year on hire fees. Sally Wimpres replied that PEDAS was about more than exhibiting.

Peter wanted it clarifying that we do not pay for our exhibiting time, only the 10% commission that other exhibitors pay. Liz confirmed this.

----- Tea Break -----

Carolyn Fields was unable to give a talk on pastels so we continued to invite discussion from the floor regarding what Members want from PEDAS, and for any more comments on the finances.

Anne Hartman and Julie Scammel were weary of doing the teas and suggested that they would bring in the milk, biscuits etc, but ask for different volunteers present on the day to prepare the teas and clean up. It was agreed the practice would be adopted at the next Sunday session, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Tracey Chambers asked for an instruction list and Julie and Anne said they would draw one up. Peter asked who the 'Thursday Team' were, (LH, PM, SH). He referred to last Thursday's session saying how he had enjoyed the moving model, and suggested more similar.

Dawn Goodson said the choice of a different model in the two rooms was appreciated.

Rosemary Bastick asked for a trip to Pallant House, but Carole replied that it had not attracted enough people when tried in the past. Sarah Moore said that a car-

full works. JB reminded us that we have instigated that system already, run by Jacqui Gush and Caroline Robertson. We will put it to Jacqui.

Carole informed us that the trip to Edinburgh needed about 5 more people to go ahead. Closing date for deposit 9<sup>th</sup> February. She will advertise it to other clubs if still insufficient numbers by then.

JB admitted we had been remiss in the previous year in properly thanking Julie and Anne for their year of service on the committee through 2017. So we gave each a bottle of wine. Joy Gow also would receive wine for the same reason.

JB referred to the Questionnaire, and that people seemed to be generally happy with the camaraderie, the social side, the Art and the Gallery, and in other matters too. For instance the Eco Hub exhibition had been a response to the request for exhibitions in other than GUS. It was decided we would like to do it again and Norma is looking into this.

JB asked whether we should have more social events. Floor said yes. Pam Philip mentioned the boat trips we used to do, and perhaps we should try similar again.

Liz wanted us to have sessions in which we talk intelligently about Art. JB reminisced about exhibition days spent at Poole Art Centre (now Lighthouse) where organised cabaret, bands, dancers could be drawn. Jackie McKeowen mentioned *Stomping on the Quomps*, in Christchurch, which is a social music event that attracts artists; a similar thing would be UCP music *Proms in the Park*.

JB suggested we put such events on the website so that we can all decide to go. Lesley mentioned the Cricket Hut in Poole Park as a summer meeting venue. JB recalled the days when we had longer meetings, full days. Pat said we had tried that again recently but did not get enough takers. Liz reminded us of John Bowen's Saturday sessions, a full day out on location, followed by a Sunday crit. JB suggested we have a local well known artist such as Frances Hatch, who sets a project, has a crit and even an exhibition. Liz said in the Thursday evening we could go out to draw, eg to a pub or church.

Pam P mentioned that she has panto costumes in her loft which need storage. Sarah suggested we draw people in Pam's outfits, however, this doesn't solve the storage issue. Dawn said the Motor Neurone charity might take it. She also offered to give us an airbrush demonstration/workshop.

Pam Marshall would like to start a DVD library of art videos to be lent out for a small fee, to pay for new videos. A small box of DVDs to be taken to the Sunday and Thursday sessions but someone would have to manage the stock and the list of borrowers.

Peter mentioned the DVD by Shirley Trevena that was recently shown on a Thursday session, saying that it should have been followed by a workshop or discussion.

