



## NORFOLK AND NORWICH ART CIRCLE

**Draft Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at The Scout Hall, Lodge Lane, Sprowston, Norwich NR6 7HL**

**Present:** H. Pidsley, I. Coe, S. Willmer, R. Osborne-Gibb, C. Drane, M. Watson, S. Easton, J. Hodgson, J. Harrison, E. Alison, B. Ellis, G. Pringle, M. Rockley, D. Campbell, J. Hovard, Clive, A. Zawadzki, P. Zawadzki, T. Thomas, M. Auger, J. Motley, R. Motley, M. Charlesworth, R. Ridler, J. Blatchford, J. Blatchford, M. Cudmore, M. Almey

**Hazel Pidsley took the Chair.**

**Apologies** were received from H. Sant, S. Cunningham, R. Mann, V. Rainsbury, E. Vincent, S. Edwards, J. Knights

### **The minutes of AGM held on 26.3.22**

The minutes had been circulated were proposed by J. Hodgson, seconded by M. Cudmore and were approved by the meeting. Minutes signed

### **Chairman's report 2022/23**

H. Pidsley started her report in announcing that due to some last-minute issues, the agenda had been amended, this was due to the sad fact that Ken Hurst had become seriously ill and had to withdraw from Council. HP said that all our thoughts were with Ken, his wife and family.

In her report HP she highlighted the emergence from Covid and that exhibitions could be held without restrictions.

The Forum exhibition had been a success with an outstanding selection of artworks from our members. Unfortunately, sales were down.

The new venture of a three-week exhibition at The Handa Gallery, Wells-next-the-Sea. The great space, the staff at Wells were so supportive and the connection to Sir Alfred Munnings and the support from Jenny Hand, Director, Munnings Museum was outstanding, lending artworks, and ephemera belonging to Munnings. Thanks to Sue Willmer who had suggested the Black and White section of the exhibition. This had proved to be very popular and had attracted many artworks.

HP thanked Sara Edwards and Malcolm Cudmore for continuing to organise and run the Life Drawing Group which was going from strength to strength. Clive for continuing to run the monthly Social Gatherings.

HP reported that there had been an increase in membership over the past year, which was heartening and to be celebrated.

HP thanked all her colleagues on Council who had supported her through the past three years. She drew attention to Jan Motley and Rosanne Ridler who were finishing their terms of office. HP highlighted the support and work Jan had given over many years for NNAC.

HP also thanked Geoff Kitchen for his nine years of service as Honorary Secretary.

HP stated that it had been a privilege to be elected chair of such a great organisation, and had enjoyed it immensely and that NNAC was a fantastic organisation and she had met so many inspirational people and made great friends.

### **Treasurer's report.**

The Annual audited accounts had been circulated to members. Issy reported an interesting year with the recovery from the pandemic.

The Forum exhibition 2022 had resulted in a net loss of £700.

The Wells Malting s exhibition had resulted in a net profit of £700.

The end result was nearly break even.

Issy reported a significant increase of new members, as well as increased numbers attending workshops had contributed to income.

Surplus of £791.64 was made in 2022 and would be added to brought forward total of £9172 to make total reserves of £9964.

Issy thanked Derek Drane for independently scrutinising the NNAC accounts.

The accounts were proposed for approval

Proposed by Jan Motley Seconded Eleanor Alison. All agreed

Malcolm Cudmore, President presided over the next item on the agenda

### **Election of Interim Chairman**

#### **Sue Willmer**

Proposed Paul Zawadzki

Seconded Issy Coe

All agreed

Sue Willmer took the chair, and explained because Ken Hurst had suddenly had to withdraw his name, that she had been happy to fill the vacancy on an interim basis until a new Chairman and Vice Chairman could have their names put forward to members.

Sue said she had been chairman in the past, but urged members to consider getting involved with supporting NNAC through Council. Sue was confident of the support for her from Council and members.

### **Election of Council members**

#### **Geoff Kitchen**

Proposed Sara Edwards

Seconded Issy Coe

All agreed

#### **Ally Marriner**

Proposed Paul Zawadzki

Seconded Jan Motley

All agreed

#### **Rosalie Osborne-Gibb**

Proposed Hazel Pidsley

Seconded Sue Willmer

All agreed

### **Election of Honorary Officers**

#### **Hon Secretary**

Proposed Issy Coe

**Hazel Pidsley**

Seconded Malcolm Cudmore  
All agreed

**Hon Treasurer**            **Issy Coe**  
Proposed Ken Hurst  
Seconded Michelle Watson  
All agreed

**Hon Webmaster**            **Ruth Mann**  
Proposed Paul Zawadzki  
Seconded Shirley Easton  
All agreed

**Hon Membership Secretary**    **Sue Willmer**  
Proposed Paul Zawadzki  
Seconded Shirley Easton  
All agreed

### **Subscriptions 2024/25**

Subscriptions would remain at £25 per member.

### **AOB**

Richard Motley raised the issue of 'Not for Sale' items and the decision by Council to remove this feature for The Forum exhibition 2023. Richard felt that this should be a decision taken at the AGM. His role as archivist had allowed him to look back at submissions and there had only been a very few 'nfs' items submitted over the past years. His argument was that if members submitted a 'nfs' piece of artwork, it was still subject to being scrutinised by the selection committee and the artist would pay submission fees. Some members have submitted work in the past which were of a personal nature and/or of special significance to them personally, but they were happy to have it viewed by the public.

After a discussion and various views put forward it was agreed that the decision could not be reversed for the next exhibition.

**Proposal to allow one item of 'not for sale' per member would be re-instated for future exhibitions.**

Proposer Richard Motley  
Seconded Janet Harrison  
Votes for the proposal 21  
Votes against the proposal 4  
The motion was carried

Janet Harrison asked for consideration to be given to the format of catalogue and revert to how it had been presented before the pandemic.

Clive spoke about the forthcoming Social Gathering on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
Subject would be 'Hide and Seek'. Participants are encouraged to bring a piece that has been made relating to the subject.

Clive thanked Geoff Kitchen for sending out reminders to members.

## **Closing words from President Malcolm Cudmore**

When I sat down to write this report, I went back over Council meeting minutes for the last year - as, for a variety of reasons, I've been unable to attend many of them. After seven years on the Council, and becoming President at the last AGM, it was both a wrench and a relief to spend time "at arm's length" from the nitty gritty of the Society's policy and processes. So, while reading back through the minutes, I found myself wondering what a President is for. Is it the ultimate promotion - a prize - so to speak. Or is it, as is so often the case in business, a way of promoting someone "out of harm's way". After all, I can attend Council meetings but no longer have a vote or have any involvement with selection or organisation for exhibitions. In any case, you've already heard the two most important reports, from the Chairman and the Treasurer. They're the ones who have their fingers on the most up to date and relevant information. It's the members who have exercised their democratic right to vote for new officers and a new Council. So - what am I for?

I did come to a conclusion - which I'll return to in a minute!

Re-reading all the minutes in one sitting shows just how much work is done on your behalf by the Council. Like the proverbial swan, much paddling is done beneath the surface of the seemingly calm waters of the Society's programme and exhibitions. The highly visible results of this work are demonstrated by the success and smooth running of both our major exhibitions during the last year. Our return to The Forum in May, and our first at the Handa Gallery in Wells in September, kept the NNAC in the public eye as a premier UK art society. The regular newsletter to members and the excellent programme of demonstrations and workshops are all the result of a great deal of detailed work by members of the Council. Thanks to Ruth, the website looks professional and attractive - but there so much going on beneath the surface to keep it current and informative - not only for members but for the general public too. The monthly social events organised by Clive have offered a wonderful opportunity to network and share a wide variety of arty topics with fellow members. And the life drawing group is at capacity every month. All of these benefits to members are the result of extensive voluntary efforts on your behalf.

I'm proud that we're open to any adult interested in art, regardless of current skill level, and that we offer opportunities for improvement and enrichment - including the opportunity to participate in our high-quality, selected exhibitions. In my view, being a member of the Norfolk and Norwich Art Circle is a not only a great privilege but also a great reward at a very competitive price!

So, what the point of a President? We have an illustrious history dating back to 1885. But we continue to look forward, embracing new ways of making and appreciating art while respecting and celebrating our past. Together with the life vice-Presidents (whose accumulated experience of the Society forms the transition between past and future), I suppose we act (from on high!) as a kind of human CCTV watching over the society's progress into the future - recorded in the context of an extensive past. Plus, I get to enjoy the occasional chance to sing our praises in public at our exhibitions! Finally, I also get to make presentations.

Geoff Kitchen has been Secretary of Norfolk and Norwich Art Circle for virtually the whole time I've been a member. He has now chosen to stand down from that position and return to the ranks on the Council. His diligent minute taking and

maintenance of the Mailchimp newsletter distribution has done exactly what I referred to earlier. A large task mostly unseen as we receive our regular messages from the Society. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Council, to present this token of our appreciation.

Hazel Pidsley has been Chair for the last three years and, as Vice-Chair prior to that, has organised the programme, written the newsletters and steered us through some very testing times. Managing the shift to online activities during the pandemic, developing our terrific relationship with The Munnings Museum, writing the newsletters and looking after every element of the day-to-day running of the Society. I think the Council will wonder what's hit it when all those responsibilities are divvied up at the next Council meeting. Fortunately, we are not losing Hazel. She has agreed to become Secretary. But, on behalf of the Council and members, it gives me much pleasure to present this as a token of our appreciation for all your hard work as Chairman.

Meeting closed at 3.15pm