



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION
HELD ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2023 at 7:30pm BY ZOOM**

Present:

**Professor C. Green
S. Lloyd
M. Odam**

**Chair IAA
Treasurer IAA
Secretary IAA**

**Ed Broom
Mary Chapman
Ann Cloke
Terry Cloke
Graham Jones
Jayne Jones
Alan Loader
Cllr Tim Lockington
Michael Madden
Cecillia Metherall
Vera Rogers
Gordon Scopes
Alison Smyth
Simon Snowden
Steven Wade
Sue Wallace-Shaddad**

**IAA Trustee
Felixstowe Harmonies
IAA – Charter Hangings/Ipswich Children’s Book Group
Ipswich Film Society
Wolsey Orchestra
Hadleigh Choral Society
Ipswich Chamber Music Soc/Suffolk Organists’ Association
Ipswich Borough Council
Woodbridge Orchestral Society
Community Light Orchestra
IAA concerts and lectures
Community Light Orchestra
Tower Street Print Projects
Ipswich Choral Society
Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir
IAA Trustee**

1. Apologies for absence:

Pat Grimwade (IAA/Ipswich Symphony Orchestra), Sarah Ingrams (Ipswich Symphony Orchestra), Jonathan Armitage (Wolsey Orchestra), Shirley Imlach (Ipswich Children’s Book Group), Deborah Sharman (Orwell Singers), Chandra Grover (IAA, Birkbeck Singers, Felixstowe Harmonies), Sabine Sutton (IAA concerts and lectures), Bee Willey (IAA), Jane Hall (Woodbridge Choral Society), Emma Seggar (Ipswich Suzuki Group), Roy Preston, Margaret Nicholls (Birkbeck Singers, Felixstowe Harmonies), Natasha Free (Felixstowe Musical Theatre), Rachel Sloan (Felixstowe Community Choir), Paul Smith (IAA website)

Chris Green took the opportunity to inform the meeting of the death of former trustee Mary Hollis. She had been a member of the executive for many years, and had contributed to the inception of the millennium projects, the Town Lectures and the Ipswich Charter Hangings.

2. To receive and confirm the Minutes of Annual General Meeting: held on 7th November 2022

It was noted that some of the dates were incorrect (2021 instead of 2022, 2022 instead of 2023). These were amended and, with these corrections acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Sue Wallace-Shaddad and seconded by Ed Broom. This was agreed by majority decision, and they were signed as a correct record.

3. To receive the Chair’s Report:

Professor Green gave his report, which will be available to read on the website.

Cecilia Metherall thanked the Chair for his support for organisations around the area.

4. To receive the Treasurer's Report:

The audited accounts had been previously circulated.

Receipts and payments showed a net surplus of £2342, which was greater than in 2021/22. Subscription payments were slightly down due to the loss of members, but takings from lectures and concerts was up due to larger audiences.

£500 had been given to Tower Street Print Project in sponsorship of their roadroller-printed wallhanging.

An invoice for £480 had been received from Museum Street Methodist Church for bookings, but this had been received after the year end and thus was not included in the accounts.

In total £17,690 is held in the accounts at end of year.

5. Presentation and adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31/08/23

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Gordon Scopes and seconded by Mary Chapman. A majority were in favour.

It was noted that an examiner was not to be appointed as the Treasurer is a Chartered Accountant.

6. To recommend that subscription rates for 2022/23 do not change: £50 for societies with over 80 members; £25 for societies with fewer than 80 members; £10 for individual membership.

The Trustees felt that subscriptions should remain at the current level, and this was proposed by Sandy Lloyd, seconded by Cecilia Metherall, with a majority being in favour.

7. To elect the Officers for the year 2022/23

Sandy Lloyd took the Chair.

The election of Chris Green as Chair was proposed by Sandy Lloyd, seconded by Alan Loader and unanimously accepted.

Chris Green returned to the Chair

The election of Mary Odam as Secretary and Sandy Lloyd as Treasurer was proposed by Chris Green and seconded by Cllr Lockington. All were in agreement.

Chris Green resumed the Chair.

9. To elect four Executive Committee members for the year 2022/23

The trustees who were willing to stand again, Ed Broome, Patricia Grimwade, Christine Pearce, Bev Ruddock, Sue Wallace-Shaddad and Ken Windsor were proposed as a group by Mary Chapman, seconded by Simon Snowden and unanimously elected. There are three vacancies remaining, which can be filled by co-option. It was noted that the Board is not strong in the fields of visual arts and drama, and that there is no publicity officer.

Sue Wallace-Shaddad reported that Bee Willey had done a lot of work on the requirements for the website during her year as a trustee, but had been very disappointed with the response from members to her questionnaire. Organisations were encouraged to give more input.

Vera Rogers said that the Town Lectures and Concerts are a good platform for advertising events or for volunteer opportunities.

The loss of the Tourist Information Centre was a blow, but Ipswich Institute is playing a big part in filling the void, for instance as a starting point for walks.

Alan Loader asked whether the IAA could have any influence regarding the loss of the TIC, but it was reported that St Stephen's is now available for lease with the hire charge being £400, so it was unlikely that IAA would have any influence.

CLlr Lockington said that there was an ongoing debate about virtual space. This is not available for everyone, and there is still a relevance to hard copy for a [proportion of people.

Alison Smyth agreed that not having access to the TIC is discriminatory against those who don't use the internet, typically older people. She finds it an issue for Ipswich Print Week and has trouble finding places to put posters and leaflets. She has even found problems getting posters into the window at the Corn Exchange. Mary Odam will liaise with Alison Smyth to try and help, and will speak to Mark Whiting.

ACTION: MPO

Vera Rogers defended the CE window procedure: she sends a pdf every month and it is always acknowledged. Of the 2500 brochures which have been printed for the 2023 Town Lectures and Concerts only a handful remain.

Terry Cloke was of the opinion that the internet is a good resource if you are looking for something that you know to be happening, but you need to know where to look.

CLlr Lockington said that the Mansion, Museum and Libraries all have opportunities for displaying posters and brochures. Shop windows could also be used.

Ed Broom expressed thanks to Chandra Grover for her posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Mary Odam will send societies a reminder about the questionnaire for input about the website.

The meeting closed at 8:33 pm

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0