

Minutes of the Visual Art Network Annual General

Meeting English Bridge Workshop, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6AD 3rd October 2024: 6.30-8.30

1. **Present:** Phil Langstaff, Julie Goldthorpe, Reg Lewis, Jasmine Sara, Jancis Vaughan, Jackie Corfield, Colin Rose, Peter Fricker, Gisela Robinson, Monica Silver, Dave Thompson, Sue Mulcock, Maureen Carswell, David Holmes, Anne Bremridge

Apologies from: Pat Simon, Janice Gill, Jana Ward, Davina Fairweather, Rachel Reid, Lena Jarl Churm, Tracey Hill, Sandra Lane, Diane Harrington, Jill Bagnall, Gerry Jackson, Mike Hodge, Andy Weeks, Lindsey Kennedy, Susan Goode, Fiona Jackson, David Hilditch, Sally Deegan, Margaret Lee-Phillips, Susie Davis, William Lee, Katie Barrett, Suki White, Michael White, Karen Lowe, Bill Sample, Helen Sample, Caroline Bennett, Liz Taylor, Sean Drumm, Carl Jones, Rob Fountain, Ann Jones, Jill Impey, George Evans, Chris Williams, Delny Fitzryk, Isabel Bradley, Ray Bolger, Stewart Harrison, Marion Read, Graham Last, Alison Phillips, Tina Cooke, Rebecca Torvik, Joana Souto, Helen Cross.

Phil Langstaff chaired the meeting, welcomed everybody and facilitated introductions.

2. **The minutes of the previous AGM (2023)** were accepted as a correct record of that meeting.

All at the meeting accepted the minutes of meeting from 2023 as accurate.

3. **Matters arising from those minutes.** All actions from the AGM 2023 minutes have now been completed:

No further matters arising.

4. **The Chair's report** was presented by Phil Langstaff, and **is attached to these minutes.**

Wednesday late night opening was discussed and it was decided to do 3 shifts as in previous years.

The Community Fund is to benefit the art community of Shropshire, wider communities & the arts.

Membership Survey 38% response rate, summary results sent out, satisfaction high overall and suggestions of changes etc to go ahead include,

Task force for clearing out basement also to be discussed going forward Reg's suggestion get skip for the

day to remove rubbish.

Opportunities –Jonathan Thaw has offered to run a half day workshop on ‘Building your own website’. Phil also mentioned we are going to try and develop a relationship with Shrewsbury College, suggested they could take over one of the Artist Boards and maybe volunteer in the gallery.

Threats –Sunday opening appears to be a problem. Reg suggested we could close Sunday and open Monday, Phil said we would look at in New Year. VAN’s membership was discussed and although the membership has stayed around the 130 mark in recent years concern was voiced over why people leave, Julie said some Members leaving are due to outgrowing VAN.

5. The Treasurer’s report was also presented by Phil Langstaff, as Jana Ward was unable to make it to the meeting and is now stepping down, **this is attached to these minutes.**

The Accountant prepared the annual accounts for 2023

As of 30th September 2024 we have taken less income than 2023 but have a higher footfall so we could do with a good end of year.

It was discussed why we need to keep so much money in the Reserve Account and it was explained this is for Community projects and should we be asked to leave the Darwin Centre it will help to cover Rent to start with in a new venue.

Electricity costs were queried and they were £1500 in 2023.

6. Election of Trustees. The following members were elected to the Board of Trustees:

The meeting voted unanimously in keeping the current Trustees.

Jana Ward to step down as Treasurer. The meeting voted in favour of Janice Gill taking over the role.

7. Community Project Nominations. Phil presented 4 proposals for the project fund for the meeting to vote on:

- That £3,500 should be set aside for the fund this year rather than the £5,000 in 2023 to keep some money in reserve. The meeting voted in favour.

- That £2,000 should be given to the Arts Trail 2024, which VAN supported last year (application by Phil Langstaff). It was mentioned we benefit through advertising on the booklets. Phil Langstaff abstained as he is on the Arts Trail committee. The meeting voted in favour.

- That £1,000 should be given to the English Bridge Workshops, Shrewsbury, to help with them reviewing and restoring their archive, have an interactive archive exhibition and to go towards the relaunch of their studios as part of their 40th anniversary. (application by Jancis Vaughan). Jancis Vaughan abstained as she is part of the English Bridge Workshops. The meeting voted in favour.

- That £500 should be given as a prize to a local school who takes part in a Children's Art Competition and wins (application by Julie Goldthorpe) It was suggested that we ask schools when would be the best time of year to hold a competition as Christmas is very busy. It was discussed the age range should be restricted to 7-9 year olds and a size be given eg 8' x 4', VAN would judge the entries and the school would win the money to spend on promoting art in the school. The winning entry would be exhibited in in the VAN gallery. The meeting voted in favour.

8. Any Other Business.

Jackie Corfield asked do trustees know they should give a 2 month notice when leaving? This was confirmed and was voted on favorably in last years AGM.

Susan Mulcock enquired who organized artwork to go in The Parade, Phil stated it was Jess Richards and Ross Callaghan.

Peter Fricker suggested VAN could get involved with the Christmas Tree display at St Chads at a cost of around £50 – interesting idea eg bauble for each to do. Phil to look into it.

Reg complained about the sum up machine not working. It is a bit temperamental but down to the Wifi not being good in Darwin Centre so it would not be useful to change the machine.

The meeting then closed. 19.49