

FRIENDS OF BRISTOL MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND ARCHIVES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at M Shed on Saturday 23 September 2023 starting at 2.30pm

Present: Sir George White (Patron), Sue Thurlow (Chair), Katherine Martin (Secretary), Robert Walters (Treasurer), Richard Avery (Membership Secretary), Mary Bailey, Clive Burlton, Susan Hibberd, Gary Gostelow, Carol Lear, Toby Pinn, Steve Sparks (Trustees), and 53 members.

In attendance: Linda Coode ((Head of Collections and Archives), Beth Cutter (job share Development Manager), Julia Carver (Curator, Visual Arts), Anne Lovejoy (Senior Archivist).

1 Welcome

The Chair introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She apologised that publication of the newsletter was late and not everyone had received it.

2 Apologies for absence

The Secretary said apologies for absence had been received from Francis Greenacre (Patron), Ray Barnett (past Head of Collections and Archives), Geoffrey Clements (Independent Examiner), Lucy Bailey (standing for election to Executive Committee) and twelve other members of the Friends.

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 September 2022, which had been circulated, were agreed by the meeting.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Annual Report – Chair’s report

Most Friends had received their Annual Report with the September newsletter and there were copies available for those who were still waiting for it. ST said while the Friends’ finances were healthy there was a decline in the numbers volunteering to take responsibility for jobs that needed doing; this was part of a national trend. Membership was declining by 8% p.a. and now stood at 330 single and 310 joint members. She was very grateful to members of the Events Group, who had raised £14,500 in the current year, and to those who edited and helped to distribute the newsletter. A museum restructure had led to the resignation of Ray Barnett as Head of Collections and Archives, who had ably represented the museum at committee meetings; in his place Beth Cutter and Caroline Booth-Morris, job share Development Managers, were doing an excellent job. She was grateful to her fellow officers on the committee, and particularly to Gary Gostelow, who had given sterling service over many years, and was not standing again. She was particularly grateful to Friends whose legacies contributed to funds, to Peter Newley who administered Gift Aid, and to Geoff Clements for examining the accounts. Funds inherited from the Friends of

the Art Gallery had been ring-fenced to ensure they were used for art; these had now been expended. She was grateful to all the volunteers who made cakes for talks, festivals and sales. She reminded members that they could bring friends on trips when there were vacancies.

The meeting agreed to accept the Annual Report.

6 **Accounts**

Copies of the full accounts had been tabled for the meeting, and a list of the grants made to the museum was in the Annual Report sent to all members. ST drew attention to the downturn in subscriptions received and the increasing costs of the newsletter.

The meeting agreed to accept the Accounts.

7 **Proposed changes to the Constitution**

The meeting agreed nem con to all the proposed changes:

1. To make it easier to give proper notice of the AGM

Paragraph 6.2 Annual General Meeting

First two sentences to read: "The Annual General Meeting of the Association, of which 21 days' notice shall be given to all members by the Secretary, shall be held during the month of October in each year. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum."

2. To allow electronic communication as an alternative to post

SECTION 10 NOTICES

10.1

To read: "Notices to members shall be deemed sufficiently served if sent by pre-paid post to the address of the member registered on his/her subscription form, or to their email address where this is provided."

3. To allow for meetings by electronic means

SECTION 6 MEETINGS

To add a new paragraph:

6.4 Meetings by electronic means

A meeting of the trustees may be held either in person or by suitable electronic means agreed by the trustees in which all participants may see and hear each other. In special circumstances (e.g. during a pandemic) an Annual General Meeting may be held in the same way.

- 8 **To elect nominees to Officer posts and Executive Committee membership**
ST introduced those standing for the Executive Committee. The meeting agreed to elect the officers: Sue Thurlow (Chair), Katherine Martin (Secretary), Robert Walters (Treasurer) Richard Avery (Membership Secretary). They then agreed to elect the members: Lucy Bailey, Mary Bailey, Clive Burlton, Susan Hibberd, Carol Lear, Toby Pinn, Steve Sparks, with one vacancy.
- 9 **To appoint an Independent Examiner**
The meeting agreed to ask the Executive Committee to appoint an External Examiner.
- 10 **Any other business, properly that of an AGM**
RW, on behalf of everyone present, thanked the Chair for all her work.