

**MINUTES OF “THE ARTS SOCIETY – WOKING”
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2023. AT 10.00 AM.**

Our President, Romy Read, opened the meeting by thanking Trevor Walters for his outstanding chairmanship and successfully steering our Arts Society through the Covid pandemic and the move from Bisley to Normandy. Romy emphasized the importance of all members being proactive to ensure that our Arts Society flourishes, particularly as many Arts Societies have closed. Romy encouraged members to volunteer to join the committee and to help at meetings.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from John Gill (our Independent Finance Examiner).

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 8th November 2022, approved.

Proposed by Malcolm Read and unanimously seconded.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising

4. Chairman’s Report

TW welcomed all members including 15 new members. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the membership base.

TW thanked the committee for their support and hard work and other helpers – Katherine Barker and Ros Lawson for organizing the coffee at meetings and Kris Perrin for the help on obtaining Gift Aid and Mike Peel for audio/visual support.

TW reported that our Arts Society had had a successful year, the second at Normandy Village Hall, a location that everyone appreciated. A very good talks programme was supplemented by an excellent visits programme – Sissinghurst and Hever Castle, Cardiff and the Wye Valley and a self-drive morning for a tour of Brookwood Cemetery.

The finances of our Arts Society were healthy with £17,099 in reserves enabling £10,000 to be put in a high interest account for one year.

The only concern is that membership is gradually falling (237 in 2019 and now 149), due to various reasons - but we do fortunately have a number of new members. Average reduction over the four years in West Surrey area is 31%. There are 2,800 members in total now in the West Surrey area and 65,000 overall in the UK.

TW reiterated the importance of recruiting new members, retaining the existing membership and encouraging members to bring friends to the meetings. At the last AGM of the 18 societies in the West Surrey area, two were unable to continue for lack of a committee, and Camberley will be closing next month.

TW said how long our Arts Society continues depends not so much on membership numbers or finances but on people being willing to serve on the committee (or just to help with a few tasks).

5. Accounts to note

We incurred a small deficit of £417 in past year compared with a small surplus last year. Donations for tea and coffee have traditionally been £1 per head but this is significantly subsidised so TW suggested it would be preferable if members offered a donation of £2 per head for coffee and biscuits in 2024.

6. Elect an Independent Financial Examiner

John Gill was re-elected in the role and was presented with a small gift in appreciation of work conducted over the past year.

Proposed by Fanchon Sutton and unanimously seconded.

7. To Receive The Committee Members Individual Reports

These were included in the pre-circulated papers.

8. To elect Officers and Committee Members for 2023 – 2024

Traditionally we propose and second the committee in toto but a special resolution is required for TW to continue as Chairman for another year as he comes to the end of his three year tenure.

This was proposed by Romy Read and seconded by Malcolm Read and approved on a show of hands.

Under the Constitution all committee members are required to resign and be re-appointed. A motion to re-appoint the current committee was unanimously carried.

Additionally, Pam Jordan has offered to act as Secretary for the coming year.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Chairman	Trevor Walters
Treasurer	Angie Grundy
Secretary	Pam Jordan
Programme Secretaries	Christine and Geoff Wiskin
Visits Secretary	Sue Walters
Membership Secretaries	Jo Pay, Sarah Barker
Publicity and Recruitment	Richard Jordan

TW noted that we are still seeking to fill the position of Vice Chairperson to take over from TW when he is required by the Constitution to stand down.

Wrapping up the AGM, TW reminded members that for their society to continue we need volunteers to serve on the committee so please could members consider offering their services.

9. Any Other Business

The meeting closed at 10.20 a.m.