

Minutes to the AGM of the Royal Society of Sculptors

**Tuesday 20 May 2025, 3.00pm
via ZOOM**

Present: Laura Ford (LF) President

Also: Ali Darke MRSS, Almuth Tebbenhoff VPRSS, Amanda Cornish GBA, Andrea Geile FRSS, Andrew Stonyer FRSS, Anna Gillespie MRSS, Anne-Laure Cano MRSS, Barbara Beyer MRSS, Briony Marshall MRSS, Caroline Lambard MRSS, Cheryl Gould MRSS, Claire Morgan FRSS, Denise Bryan MRSS, Desa Philippi MRSS, Didi Gaudron MRSS, Dilys Jackson MRSS, Elspeth Penfold MRSS, Emma Hunter MRSS, Eugene Macki MRSS, Eve Shepherd MRSS, Francisca Prieto MRSS, Gabriele Risso MRSS, Jane Higginbottom MRSS, Jo Pearl MRSS, Johannes von Stumm PPRSS, Julia Ellen Lancaster MRSS, Kate Parsons MRSS, Livia Spinolo MRSS, Liz Clifford MRSS, Liz Elton MRSS, Lizzie Hughes MRSS, Lorna Green FRSS, Louise Frances Smith MRSS, Lucy Glendinning FRSS, Madi Acharya-Baskerville MRSS, Mandeep Dillon MRSS, Mark Richards FRSS, Mary Anstee-Parry MRSS, Mary Bourne FRSS, Nick Hornby FRSS, Nicola Anthony MRSS, Nik Ramage MRSS, Patricia Volk FRSS, Paul Bainbridge MRSS, Paul Bonomini MRSS, Poojan Gupta MRSS, Rebecca Newnham FRSS, Ronn Beattie MRSS, Ros Burgin MRSS, Sally Hewett MRSS, Sheena Devitt MRSS, Simon Hitchens FRSS, Stephen Duncan FRSS, Stuart Sandford MRSS, Susie MacMurray FRSS, Tabatha Andrews MRSS, Tere Chad MRSS, Tessa Eastman MRSS, Victoria Ferrand Scott MRSS

Society staff: Caroline Worthington, Director (CW) and Andrea Arnold, Head of Finance (AA)

Also attending: Jane Reeves (independent Trustee) and Gareth Hughes (Garside & Co. LLP Chartered Accountants).

The President extended a warm welcome to members, noting that a quorum was present and the meeting proceeded to business. With the consent of the members present, the notice of the meeting was taken as read.

1. Apologies and Proxy Votes

1.1 Apologies were received from six members:

Nicolas Moreton MRSS, Robert Erskine FRSS, Sadie Brockbank MRSS, Ann Christopher FRSS, Prof. Brian Falconbridge PPRSS and Alex Harley MRSS.

1.2 Apologies were also received from Nick Rockett (accountant).

1.3 There was one proxy vote registered.

2. Announcements

The President paid tribute to three colleagues who had died in the past year.

MICHAEL COOPER FRSS

Michael had been a Fellow of the Society since 1995. Michael exhibited widely at a variety of venues from London Zoo to Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Royal Academy. His large scale commissions can be seen in Covent Garden and Bicester Village.

YUNUS HAIDER MRSS

Yunus joined the Society in 1981 having trained at Central St Martins and the RCA. His work was highly influenced by his childhood years in the Himalayas and explored his love for the countryside through bronze and ceramics.

CAROLE HODGSON FRSS

Carole studied at Wimbledon School of Art followed by the Slade and subsequently received many awards including from the British Council. The Elephant Trust, Arts Council and British School at Rome.

Her work mixed abstraction, landscape and the human figure with solo shows at Flowers East, Llanelli festival and New Ashgate Gallery in Farnham.

Members took a moment to quietly remember Michael, Yunus and Carole.

3. Presentation

Freeny Yianni, curator and owner of CLOSE Gallery gave a talk about her experience of working with artists.

After several questions from members, the President thanked Freeny for her presentation and she left the meeting.

4. Minutes of the 2024 AGM held on 21 May 2024

CW noted that one comment had been received on the minutes from Prof. Brian Falconbridge PPRSS noting that, in fact, Philomen Davidson had been President of the Society 1990-1996 and that John Mills was elected twice before standing down in 1997 after a brief second period in office.

The President presented the minutes for adoption and asked if they were accurate.

RESOLVED That the minutes were an accurate record and be signed by the President

5. Matters Arising

There were none.

6. Election to the Board

On behalf of the Board and Society's members, the President thanked Barbara Beyer MRSS and Rebecca Newnham FRSS for their contributions as Trustees.

The President was delighted that three candidates had been nominated and thanked them for coming forward. She announced that Tere Chad MRSS and Anna Gillespie MRSS had been elected.

RESOLVED To appoint Tere Chad MRSS and Anna Gillespie MRSS to the Board

RESOLVED To extend the term of Laura Ford as President for a second term

RESOLVED To extend the term of Bill Price for three years

RESOLVED To extend the term of Edwina Sassoon for three years

7. Treasurer's Report, Audited Accounts & Appointment of Auditors

7.1 The President explained that the Treasurer was representing the Society at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace this afternoon. He had sent a note on the accounts in advance of the AGM which CW read:

In the year ended 31 December 2024 the accounts for the Society show a healthy surplus reflecting the fundraising effort in connection with the continuing refurbishment of Dora House. Fundraising continued after year end and it is anticipated that the majority of the expenditure on Creating a Home for Sculptors will appear in the Society's accounts for 2025. Membership income rose by 7% through the increase in member fees and a further increase in membership numbers. The Society's costs continued to be tightly controlled with staff costs increasing by only 4%.

The President then introduced Gareth Hughes of Garside & Co. LLP Chartered Accountants and invited him to comment on the accounts. GH reported that he was happy with the surplus and cash balance although it is down on 2023. However, this reflects the ongoing investment in the building.

Johannes von Stumm PPRSS asked how many members there are at present and AA replied 744.

RESOLVED To unanimously receive the audited accounts of the Society and the Board's report for the year ended 31st December 2024 and the auditor's report thereon

Gareth Hughes then signed the accounts.

RESOLVED To unanimously appoint Garside & Co LLP Chartered Accountants as auditors of the Society for the period commencing upon the conclusion of the meeting until conclusion of the next general meeting at which the accounts of the Society are laid and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.

8. Director's report

The Director gave her report for the year.

9. President's address

The President then addressed members.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting was brought to a close.