Minutes of AGM

Venue: St. George's Hall, Tiverton

Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 19:00

AGENDA

Apologies for absence

Janet Ashworth, Lola Gill, Natalie Dignum, Sylvia Rigby, Jean Metcalfe, Marilyn Pocock, Karen Knapton, Cressida Takle, Linda Chainey, Denise Crawford, Hilary Tosdevin, Damiano Cilenti, Andy Hingston, Dave Rendall, Vivienne Henderson, Jan Tillett, Liz Guppey, Jenny Bigdgood , Ceri Lloyd, Mike Brown.

Previous AGM minutes 2025

The minutes of the last AGM were circulated to the meeting.

Minutes agreed as accurate

Proposed by: Stuart Fowle

Seconded by: Heather Strong

The minutes were duly signed as a true record.

Signed by: **Keith Benge – President**

Matters arising from 2025 AGM Minutes

Chief Co-ordinator -Phil Belsham updated on matters which arose from last year's minutes

1) **Lighting in the car park** – The council have been contacted and Phil has the name of an internal contact there in order to further proceed with this matter.
2) **Eligibility of bursary for young people** – The Executive and Shirley have discussed this. See below for proposals to be put forward at the 2026 AGM.
3) **Changing the rules for selling artist cards at exhibitions**- idea rejected based upon issues of space, recording of sales and additional load on stewards. Team open to further suggestions on manageable routes for selling cards.

President's address given by Keith Benge

Headlines from President's address:

- Praise for Phil Belsham's excellent organisation and management of the team.
- It was felt that Phil has lifted the calibre of TAS and the President stated how very pleased he was with the way in which the society is now heading
- Updated members on the range of groups and hospitality plus the summer exhibition.
- Offered personal thanks to everyone who gets involved in events
- Offered personal thanks to the Executive who maintain the smooth running of the society.
- Shared abundant praise for the society as a whole.

Chief Coordinator's Annual Report given by Phil Belsham

Headlines of attached report:

- Last year has been amazing for TAS members
- There have been inspiring monthly demos organised by Katarina Kos and Kathy Jenner,
- There have been fully booked workshops organised by Elaine Chetham and Jenny Utting
- There have been beautiful sketching day venues Sandy Mawer and Jean Metcalfe
- The effort Bev Boundy puts into the art hangings at the hospital was noted
- Widespread thanks to all involved in organising and attending events given.
- Shared the great success of the Summer Exhibition with thanks offered to the team with particular mention to Debbie Goostrey as her first excellent outing as Exhibition Secretary together with Jan Tillett.
- Phil defined how we might measure exhibition success and its overall impact and result by sharing a host of reflective questions and statements (see full report attached to these minutes).
- Consideration was given to the statement 'art for all'
- TAS now has 161 members, 27 new members joining since the 2025 AGM, 11 new members up the summer exhibition and 16 following the exhibition.
- Appreciation and thanks was given to Stuart Fowle for his incredible work with the TAS website and Facebook page. This has been quoted as being 'the best website of any Art Society' and is a major factor in attracting great interest in what TAS do.
- Thanks offered to Jenny Nash for taking on tea and coffee organisation and opening up the meeting venue, with further thanks offered to Wendy Vlasto for her previous services in this domain.
- Thanks offered to Pam Dale/Jo Kenny/Shirley Walton and David Trezies for running the weekly Old Heathcoat's art group and building a really sense of community and belonging at this group
- Thanks offered to Marietta Sully (Treasurer) and Shirley Walton (Membership Secretary) for their ongoing services and hard work behind the scenes.
- Thanks offered to Isobel Scott and Jan Tillet for operating the projector system at meetings. mention was made that TAS are looking at ways to improve the picture and quality at each meeting.
- Wider thanks given to everyone for their continual support and encouragement over these last 12 months.

Treasurer's Report given by Marietta Sully

Marietta stated that 2026 has been a successful year for TAS

Headlines of attached report:

- Current assets (net) £19550.85 as at 30/9/26
- Overall Profit and Loss – Receipts £11673.83. Payments £9772.73. Operating surplus £1901.10
- Workshops (7 held this year and have been well supported)(Oct 25 – Sept 26) Net Income £3185.00. Total Profit £190.66.
- Paint Groups (Oct 25 – Sept 26) Income £3017.35, Room Rent (£2321.00) Total Profit £696.35
- Exhibitions raffle £340.00 Surplus £859.23 Costs higher due to the preview afternoon.
- General – higher publicity costs due to bi-annual web site fees
- Membership costs maintained at £20.00 per annum.
- Thanks offered Peter Woodley – TAS auditor

Proposed by: Heather Strong

Seconded by: David Trezies

Report accepted by the body of members in attendance.

Re-election of Executive

All Executive positions blocked together this year as there was to be no change to the Executive

Election of Chief Co-ordinator

Phil Belsham to be elected as Chief Co-ordinator

Election of Treasurer

Marietta Sully to be elected as Treasurer

Election of Membership Secretary

Shirley Walton to be elected as Membership Secretary

Election of Minuting Secretary

Stephanie Hart to be elected as Minuting Secretary

Proposed by: Elaine Cheetham

Seconded by: Debbie Goostrey

Proposed Change of Categories of Membership and Subscriptions in the rules to the following:

Junior Membership (16-17) = £2 per annum (must be accompanied by an adult to all events)

Young adult membership (18-25) - £10 per annum

Adult membership (0ver 25) - £20 per annum

Change in terms of Bursaries

Isobel Scott presented suggestions as for changes to Bursaries to the Executive.

These changes were proposed to membership at AGM and were voted in – see below.

Questions that arose from the membership at the AGM

Rosie Longbourne - suggested consideration to TAS reframe the name of bursary to a grant as this might be a more understandable term.

Katarina Kos - suggested consideration to be maybe giving bursaries to emerging artists who want to make a career out of art. The challenges here might be in how TAS establish a definition of an 'emerging artist'

John Gutteridge: - suggestion for exhibition for young artists

Wendy Vlasto - suggested that children of the Castle Primary School exhibit their own art as part of TAS Summer Exhibition.

Next Steps

TAs will now look to create a Bursary team who will consider and more specifically establish the finer detail of these proposed changes.

Membership voted on this change – unanimous vote for change

Proposed by: Jo Kenny

Seconded by: Rosie Longbourne

Election of Wendy Vlasto to Honorary Life membership for services to the Tiverton Art Society

Wendy was thanked for all her hard work over the years and handed a certificate by the President

Proposed by: Shirley Walton

Seconded by: attendees show of hands by way of approval

Questions and Answers

None posed from the membership

The meeting was called to a close by the President at 19:45