

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Minutes of the DAGFAS Annual General Meeting 1100 hrs on 7 April 2017, at Gracefield Studios, Dumfries

Present: Council	Members:	Phil Gibson
Members:	David Alexander	June Marchbank
Martine Berlemont	Anne Campbell	Iris McKie
Hazel Campbell	Valerie Crichton	Carol Paget
Alan Hawker	Jane Howe	Olivier Richardson
Ian Irving	Trina Grey	Pen Symonds
Brian Power	M Grey (Guest)	Carol Whiting
Carol Reece	Ruth Drysdale	
Kathleen Woods		

Item	Meeting Detail
1.	Welcome and Apologies: Kathleen Woods opened the DAGFAS AGM, by welcoming everyone present and thanking members present for their attendance. Apologies: David Rose, Norma Foggo, Jane Gibson, John Fairgrieve, Alayne Smith
2.	Minutes of the DAGFAS AGM of April, 2016: Minutes were approved by Jane Howe and seconded by Valerie Crichton.
3.	Matters Arising: None
4	Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked the Council for their support and excellent work over her first year of office. In particular she extended her gratitude to Carol Reece as Society Secretary, Martine Berlemont for the excellent programmes of events, expressing regret that Martine will be standing down as events organiser this year. Kathleen Woods went on to thank Ian Irving, master of the Society's user friendly website and for his wonderful presentation of the society magazine. In his absence, thanks were also extended to Chris Otty, for his care taken over the Society Funds. Last but certainly not least, the Chairman thanked the retiring President, Hazel Campbell for being such a tower of strength during her term of office and for her very active and supportive commitment to the Fine Arts Society and its council. The retiring President and Events Organiser were each presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Chairman. Chairman went on to applaud members for their excellent presentation of works at the 2016 Exhibition at Castle Douglas and reminded those present of the dates for the 2017 Exhibition at the Library Gallery running from 10 to 20 May. Hand-in will be from 11-12noon on 9 May and help in manning the exhibition was requested. The Annual Summer Exhibition at Gracefield had been another success with attendance and sales reported as excellent with the enthusiasm of the members showcasing the talent in Dumfries and Galloway. Chairman went on to say that member's input is crucial to the success of the Fine Arts Exhibitions and implored members to continue working towards this special 90 th Annual Exhibition in July 2017. A plea for support on handing in day and selection of works day was made from the Chair. The 2016 Christmas Exhibition at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary had been a great success both in standard of work presented and in sales. Unfortunately an exhibition in 2017 may not be an option in the new build according to recent information.

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4.	<p>Chairman's Report Cont'd.....:</p> <p>The 2016 Christmas Exhibition at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary had been a great success both in standard of work presented and in sales. Unfortunately an exhibition in 2017 may not be an option in the new build according to recent information.</p> <p>It was suggested by Phil Gibson that some services may be remaining on the current site and therefore the possibility of holding the exhibition there may still exist. In the mean-time, the Chairman reported that alternative exhibition space was being sought and liaison with the relevant NHS Managers was on-going.</p> <p>The Chairman made a plea for volunteers to join the Council and asked that people come forward to herself or other members of the Council to express their interest.</p> <p>Phil Gibson volunteered and will be co-opted on to the Council in July 2017.</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer's Report: In the Treasurer's absence, Chairman reported a healthy Society balance which had been reported at the last Fine Arts Council Meeting at £7,776.</p> <p>The Chairman's proposal that Tom Aitken continue to audit the Society Accounts was agreed.</p>
6.	<p>Membership Update: In Membership Secretary's absence, the Society Secretary reported a Fine Arts Membership of almost 300.</p>
7.	<p>Election of Council Members:</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the current Fine Arts Council members have agreed to continue for the next year. Martine Berlemont has stood down as Programme Organiser but has agreed to remain on the council. • Davy Brown has been proposed and has accepted the position of Fine Arts Society President. The term of office is three years.
8	<p>AOCB:</p> <p>8.1. Iris McKie asked whether the commission which was charged for the use of D&G Council premises had been increased to 40%. Clarification would be sought and notified to Fine Arts Members via email and on the Society Website.</p> <p>8.2 Chairman highlighted the availability of a Fine Arts Leaflet promoting the Society and its programme up to and including the Summer Exhibition; as well as Labels and application forms for the Society's 90th Summer Exhibition.</p>
9	<p>Guest Speakers: The Chairman welcomed Rebecca Coggins, Principal Officer Arts and Museums and Harry Thomson, Head of Service who had kindly agreed to speak about the Gracefield Future Options Survey results.</p> <p>In his introduction, Harry Thomson confirmed that the wide reaching options appraisal being undertaken by Dumfries and Galloway Council included social care, cultural and financial aspects with a view to ensuring all buildings under its remit remain fit for current and future purpose.</p>

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9.	<p data-bbox="304 259 679 293">Guest Speakers Cont'd.....:</p> <p data-bbox="304 327 1453 483">In terms of Gracefield, he confirmed that 1100 members of the general public had taken part in the consultation - testimony to the great interest in arts and crafts in the area. He spoke of the positives and the negatives in terms of Gracefield as an Arts and Crafts destination for the area and although there was no denying the enormous support for Gracefield, It was also true that poor visibility and lack of awareness were issues.</p> <p data-bbox="304 517 1453 618">Rebecca Coggins spoke of the very thoughtful, supportive and helpful comments in the free text spaces of the survey questionnaire and said how challenging it was proving to quantify these in a meaningful way in the report she was preparing.</p> <p data-bbox="304 651 967 685">Questions and suggestions from the floor included:</p> <ul data-bbox="352 685 1398 1066" style="list-style-type: none">• whether the Municipal Chambers were being considered as an art gallery. It was confirmed that this had been a suggestion by the consultancy• whether any new premises would retain the Gracefield name• concerns included the fact that<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ it is a marketable site for housing development○ Arts and crafts could end up in less favourable facilities○ Differing needs could not be adequately met• Suggestions included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Raising visibility○ The benefits of the permanent exhibition and marketing options○ Market collection more – eg with the use of cards, posters, postcards○ Improve the current facilities without moving <p data-bbox="304 1099 1453 1200">It was confirmed that no decision has yet been made regarding the future of the Gracefield site and that the results of the options appraisal will be the subject of a public report, with release expected in the late Autumn or Winter of 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="304 1234 1422 1357">The guest speakers were thanked in the usual way for their open and frank feedback. Those present confirmed their anticipation of learning the results of the options appraisal and awaiting the final decision with interest and some anxiety. It was suggested that the process could take several years.</p>