Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting of
The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies
(a company limited by guarantee)
held on 18th May 2016 at Kensington Town Hall

Company Registration No. 4307984
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1. Chairman’s welcome

The Chairman’s welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

The list of apologies is held at NADFAS House, and is available there for inspection.

3. Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 2015

The minutes of the AGM held on 20th May 2015 were approved.

4. Report of the National Chairman

The Chairman’s address is reproduced in full on the NADFAS website at www.nadfas.org.uk, and is available on request from NADFAS House.

5. Farewells and welcomes

The Chairman began by paying tribute to the retiring Area Chairmen and thanking Caroline Egan, Lilian Fleming, Janet Pooley, Christine Sheardown and Meriel Harris, and welcomed to their new roles Carol Austin, Patsy Bennett, Chris Esplin-Jones, Sue Osborne and Jennifer Viles. Wendy Keeble and Jane Sawyer were thanked for their contributions as Head of Training and Chairman of the New Societies Committee respectively, and Liz Woods and Julia Tibbs were welcomed into both respective roles.

6. Notice of the election of Trustees

The Chairman thanked retiring Trustees Gordon Davies and Penny Hedley-Lewis and welcomed newly elected Trustees Julia Charlton-Weedy and Jillie Moss. The Chairman also emphasised that Trustees attended all Area meetings, providing an important link between the Societies, Areas and the Board.

7. Report of the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive’s presentation is reproduced in full on the NADFAS website at www.nadfas.org.uk, and is available on request from NADFAS House.

8. Report of the National Treasurer

The Hon. Treasurer’s Report is reproduced in full on the NADFAS website at www.nadfas.org.uk, and is available on request from NADFAS House.

The Chairman then invited questions on the Financial Statements.

Q1. Why are the two limited companies not part of NADFAS and do they have any staff?
Answer: They are part of NADFAS in that they are both wholly owned subsidiaries and their results are consolidated into the financial statements. They are separate entities for VAT reasons.
and because the Advertising ‘ABC’ readership rating for the NADFAS Review is required to be held in a separate organisation.

**Q2.** The questioner noted that the restricted fund (relating to the Remember WW1 project) had now ended and asked if there were any plans to hold more restricted funds in the future.

**Answer:** There were no plans to hold further restricted funds at this time.

**Q3.** The questioner asked the meaning of ‘Equity weightings’ in relation to investments.

**Answer:** Investment portfolios can include a number of different categories (Equities, Corporate Bonds, Gilts for example) and a weighting is the proportion of the portfolio allocated to a category. NADFAS had been advised to reduce its general fund weighting in equities (the riskiest investment category) from 80% to 50%.

**Q4.** Bill Allen, Area Chairman of Essex noted the group surplus of £192,000 but also that this included the £200,000 exceptional legacy. Without this there would have been an £8,000 deficit. He asked if the Board was comfortable with that?

**Answer:** This represented the result on all NADFAS’s funds – General, Designated and Restricted, and on a group turnover of over £2.3 million, this represented approximate breakeven without the legacy. Given the levels of NADFAS’s reserves for all funds this was a satisfactory result and the organisation remains financially robust.

*The National Treasurer proposed and it was carried that the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 be adopted by members.*

9. **Appointment of Kingston Smith as Auditors for the ensuing year**

*The Treasurer proposed and it was carried that Kingston Smith (Chartered Accountants) be appointed as auditors for the ensuing year.*

10. **General Question Session**

AGM 2016: Written questions and answers from members

Members were invited to write in with any questions that they would like to present at this session. Two questions had been received in advance.

**Q1.** William Rees (Exmoor DFAS) asked whether progress had been made in reviewing the lecturer review forms, and commented that there was a need for more subtlety in the answers required.

**Answer:** Review forms are part of the lecturer accreditation process, and form a crucial part of the monitoring scheme. Katherine Sutton, Education Manager, would examine the forms and any ideas and input from members would be appreciated.

**Q2.** Huw Jenkins (Leatherhead DFAS) asked whether lecturer feedback given online tended to give less positive responses.

**Answer:** The Education department does not have that information, but it would form a part of the analysis of the data for the next year.

The Chairman then invited questions from the floor:

**Q3.** Colin Redman (Oxford DFAS) noted that some £475,000 had been earmarked for future projects and asked what performance indicators would be monitored to ensure that this money would be spent effectively.

**Answer:** The Growth plan would be implemented over ten years with specific targets set over the first five years to 2021. These would be in a number of areas – for example membership numbers, diversification of membership types and new events.
Q4. **Anne White** noted the drive for new members and suggested that more Societies could benefit from local publicity by inviting the local MP or other politicians to events.

**Answer:** Many avenues for enhanced publicity for NADFAS and its Societies were being explored and implemented (eg more use of social media) and this suggestion was a good one to add to the list.

Q5. **Sue Dolman (City of Worcester)** commented that her Society was planning to hold a golden jubilee event in June 2018, and asked whether the new branding would be ready by then.

**Answer:** The new branding would be rolled out at the AGM in Birmingham in May 2017.

Q6. **Amanda Howard (Enfield)** agreed with previous comments on the lecture review forms and suggested a grading system of 1 to 5 rather than yes or no answers. She then asked whether there had been any developments in adding to the benefits arising from use of the NADFAS card.

**Answer:** There had been no further developments in this area, but it was being examined.

Q7. **Gail Guest (Edinburgh)** supported previous comments on the lecturer review forms.

Q8. **Stephen Brown (Stourbridge)** urged better consultation with Societies and felt that this may have helped overcome at an earlier stage a number of the problems with the IT database over the last year. He also mentioned that the online directory needed further improvements, such as the introduction of a browsing facility.

**Answer:** The Chief Executive commented that lessons had been learned from this process and that these would be put into practice through extensive consultation on future projects such as the rebranding process and the new website.

Q9. **Elizabeth Bagnall (Farnham)** asked members to write to their MP about the forthcoming debate in parliament on education, urging support for the teaching of the Arts in schools.

11. **Closing remarks**

The Chairman warmly thanked everyone for attending the AGM and expressed the hope that they had been stimulated by the day's events. NADFAS had come further along the road to change but more work would be done in the coming years to secure the future of the organisation. The Chairman looked forward to seeing everyone in Birmingham in a year's time.

12. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 17th May 2016 at Birmingham Town Hall.