

Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting of English PEN
Thursday 7 December 2023, 6.00-7.00pm held via Zoom at Society of Authors

Presiding: Ruth Borthwick (RB), Chair

Present:

1. Ruth Borthwick
2. Milena Büyüm
3. Joanna Stocks
4. Dan Miller
5. Shazea Quraishi
6. Daniel Gorman
7. Natasha Bucknor
8. Charlotte Aston
9. Sim Eldem
10. Will Forrester
11. Cat Lucas
12. Zoe Sadler
13. Dalia Nasreddin
14. Nadia Saeed
15. Krysta McKenzie
16. Chinyere Nwakanma
17. Daniel Hahn
18. Ros Schwartz
19. Christine Shuttleworth
20. Gail Bolland
21. Kathryn Kerle
22. Stephanie Merritt
23. Ihor Pavlyuk
24. Adam Blitz
25. Lee Langley
26. Aziz Isa Elkun
27. Catherine McBeth
28. Payam Felehgari

Reports:

Ruth Borthwick (RB), Chair

Joanna Stocks (JS), Honorary Treasurer

Daniel Gorman (DG), Director

Cat Lucas (CL), Writers at Risk Programme Manager

Zoe Sadler (ZS), Events & Prizes Manager

Will Forrester (WF), Translation and International Manager

Sim Eldem (SE), Head of Communications

Dalia Nasreddin (DN), UK Campaigns Manager

- Ruth Borthwick (RB) welcomed everyone to the 102nd English PEN AGM

1. Apologies

- RB shares apologies from 2 members and notifies all of 7 proxy votes cast

2. In memoriam

- One minute silence is held for the English PEN members who have passed this year:
 - Tom Stacey, English PEN member from 1986–2023
 - Georgina Hammick, English PEN member from 1989–2023
 - Martin Amis, English PEN member from 2007–2023
 - AS Byatt, English PEN member from 1985–2023

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 101st AGM of English PEN, held on 8 December 2022

- RB ratifies the following from the 101st AGM of English PEN, held on 8th December 2022
 - confirm that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting.
 - **Action:** accuracy confirmed (no matters arising were brought forward)

4. To receive and consider the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2022-23

- RB requests that members receive and consider the Annual Report and Audited accounts for 2022/2023.
- RB starts with her own address to members. RB thanks Daniel Gorman, Director and the English PEN Staff team for their work throughout the year.
- RB invites Joanna Stocks (JS), honorary treasurer of English PEN, to deliver her report on English PEN's finances in 2022/2023.
- JS addresses members, stating health of English PEN's finances continue to show improvement, strengthening its core capabilities.
 - Questions opened to the floor for members – no questions
- RB invites Daniel Gorman (DG), Director of English PEN, to deliver his report
- DG addresses members, thanks them for their support, as well as thanking funders, staff, trustees, patrons and members of English PEN

- RB invites programme managers at English PEN to deliver their reports to members.
 - Zoe Sadler (ZS) reports on prizes and public programmes
 - Will Forrester (WF) reports on the writers in translation programme
 - Cat Lucas (CL) reports on the campaigns and writers at risk programme
 - Dalia Nasreddin reports on UK campaigns
 - Sim Eldem (SE) reports on communications activity and membership
 - Questions opened to the floor for members – no questions

5. Re-appointment the new auditors Knox Cropper

- RB asks members to approve of the re-appointment of English PEN's auditors Knox Cropper.
 - Members to raise hands to vote

Action: passed (no objections)

6. Re-election of trustees to the board of English PEN

- RB asks members to approve the election of Lucy Beresford Knox to the Board (appointed 25 January 2023).
- RB asks members to approve the re-election of the following trustees to the board:
- Three trustees are now due for re-election to the board, Guy Gunaratne, Milena Büyüm and Ted Hodgkinson.
 - Guy Gunaratne, (appointed on 23 June 2020)
 - Milena Büyüm (appointed on 23 June 2020)
 - Ted Hodgkinson (appointed on 23 June 2020)
 - Members to raise hands to vote

Action: passed (no objections)

- RB thanked the trustees who are standing down as of today:
 - Cathy Galvin and Shazea Quraishi, resigned 7 December 2023

8. Any other business

- RB asks members for any other business.

Action: no matters arising were brought forward.

Action: passed (no objections)

9. Close of meeting

- RB thanked members for attending and for their support during the year. RB formally closed the meeting