

Minutes of the 103rd Annual General Meeting of English PEN

Thursday 5 December 2024, 6.00-7.00pm held at 24 Bedford Row and online via Zoom

Presiding: Ruth Borthwick (RB), Chair

Present:

1. Ruth Borthwick
2. Joanna Stocks
3. Daniel Gorman
4. Sim Eldem
5. Will Forrester
6. Cat Lucas
7. Krys McKenzie
8. Eleanor Antoniou
9. Joe Bibby
10. Rachael Davis
11. Catheryn Kilgarriff
12. Daoud Sarhandi-Williams
13. Nicola Parker
14. Georgina Godwin
15. Nadia Saeed
16. Nicola Spurr
17. Christina MacSweeney
18. So Mayer
19. Zoe Sadler
20. Margaret Busby
21. Lucy Beresford-Knox
22. Daniel Hahn
23. Ted Hodgkinson
24. Deborah Moggach
25. Ros Schwartz
26. Umit Ozturk
27. Carrie Supple
28. Krish Bajgai

Proxy votes received:

1. Charlotte Aston
2. Dalia Nasreddin
3. Shazea Quraishi
4. Milena Büyüm
5. Natasha Bucknor
6. Alastair Niven
7. Samantha Schnee
8. Graham Swift
9. Jean Liddiard
10. Jill Nicholls
11. Jonathan Pritchard
12. Roy Eales
13. Sandra Tozer

Reports:

Ruth Borthwick (RB), Chair

Joanna Stocks (JS), Honorary Treasurer

Daniel Gorman (DG), Director

Will Forrester (WF), Head of Literature Programmes

Cat Lucas (CL), Head of Campaigns

Sim Eldem (SE), Head of Communications

- Ruth Borthwick (RB) welcomed everyone to the 103rd English PEN AGM

1. Apologies

- There were no apologies from members; RB notified all of 13 proxy votes cast

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the 101st AGM of English PEN, held on 7 December 2023

- RB ratified the minutes from the 102nd AGM of English PEN, held on 7th December 2023

DECISION: The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record with no amendments. No matters arising were brought forward.

3. To receive and consider the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2023-24

- RB requested that members receive and consider the Annual Report and Audited accounts for 2023/2024.
- RB began with her own address to members. RB thanked Daniel Gorman, Director and the English PEN Staff team for their work throughout the year.
- RB invited Joanna Stocks (JS), honorary treasurer of English PEN, to deliver her report on English PEN's finances in 2023/2024.
- JS addressed members, indicating the health of English PEN's finances remained strong for the coming year and beyond.
 - Questions opened to the floor for members – no questions
- RB invited Daniel Gorman (DG), Director of English PEN, to deliver his report
- DG addressed members, thanked them for their support, as well as thanking funders, staff, trustees, patrons and members of English PEN
- RB invited Heads of department at English PEN to deliver their reports to members.
 - Will Forrester (WF) reported on the literature programmes
 - Cat Lucas (CL) reported on the campaigns and writers at risk programmes
 - Sim Eldem (SE) reported on communications activity and membership

- Questions opened to the floor for members – no questions

4. Re-appointment the new auditors Knox Cropper

- RB asked members to approve the re-appointment of English PEN's auditors Knox Cropper.

DECISION: Members agreed to reappoint Knox Cropper as auditors with no objections raised.

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

- RB asked members to approve the election of the following to the Board:
 - Nicky Parker (Appointed 30 January 2024)
 - Rachael Davis-Featherstone (30 January 2024)
 - Dina Nayeri (Appointed 30 January 2024)
- RB asked members to approve the re-election of the following trustees to the board:
 - Dan Miller (Appointed 1 October 2017)
 - Can Yeğinsu (Appointed 26 January 2021)

DECISION: Members approved the election and re-election of the above named trustees, with no objections

- RB thanked the one trustee who was standing down as of this meeting:
 - Arifa Akbar (Resigned 30 January 2024)

6. Any other business

- RB asked members for any other business.

RB announced that English PEN's Board of Trustees had appointed four new honorary vice presidents: Claire Armitstead, Maureen Freely, Daniel Hahn and Phillipe Sands KC.

7. Close of meeting

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