Minutes of the 104th Annual General Meeting of English PEN
Thursday 4 December 2025, 6.00-7.00pm held via Zoom at 24 Bedford Row

Presiding: Ruth Borthwick (RB), Chair

Present:

1. Alison Pindar
2. Cat Lucas
3. Dan Miller
4. Daniel Gorman
5. Daniel Hahn
6. Hongbin Liu
7. Joanna Stocks
8. Lucy Beresford-Knox
9. Miles McKenzie
10. Nicky Parker
11. Nicola Spurr
12. Ruth Borthwick
13. Sim Eldem
14. So Mayer
15. Ted Hodgkinson
16. Will Forrester
17. Zoe Sadler

Proxies:

1. Aki Schilz
2. Anisha Dhungana
3. Can Yeginsu
4. Charlotte Aston
5. Dina Nayeri
6. Eleanor Antoniou
7. Georgina Godwin
8. Jonathan Prichard
9. Margaret Busby
10. Mia Eldem
11. Nadia Saeed
12. Rachael Davis-Featherstone
13. Rebecca Gray
14. Ros Schwartz
15. Sandra Tozer
16. Victoria Field

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), Interim Deputy Director and Head of Communications

- Ruth Borthwick (RB) welcomed everyone to the 104th English PEN AGM.

1. Apologies

- There were no apologies from members; RB notified all of 16 proxy votes cast.

2. In memoriam

- One minute silence was held for the English PEN members who have passed this year:
    - Frederick Forsyth
    - Gillian Tindall
    - Tony Harrison
    - Michael Longley
    - Alistair Niven (former President of English PEN)
    - Tom Stoppard (former vice-president of English PEN)

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 103rd AGM of English PEN, held on 5 December 2024

- RB ratified the minutes from the 103rd AGM of English PEN, held on 5th December 2024.

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

4. To receive and consider the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2024-25

- RB requested that members receive and consider the Annual Report and Audited accounts for 2024/2025.

- RB began with her own address to members. RB thanked the entire English PEN Staff team for their dedication throughout the year, the Board of Trustees, for their unwavering commitment and guidance, and our distinguished President, Margaret Busby.

- RB invited Joanna Stocks (JS), honorary treasurer of English PEN, to deliver her report on English PEN's finances in 2024/2025.

- JS addressed members, indicating the health of English PEN's finances continue to show improvement – a positive reflection of the team's tireless efforts in fundraising. JS noted that this would be her last AGM, then thanked the Board and the team for their work throughout her years as Treasurer.

    - 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 programme
    - Sim Eldem (SE) reported on communications activity and membership

    - Questions opened to the floor for members – no questions

5. Re-appointment of the 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.

6. Delegate authority to the trust to fix the remuneration of the auditors on an ongoing basis until this authority is revoked by further members' ordinary resolution

- RB asked members to delegate authority to the trustees to fix the remuneration of the auditors on an ongoing basis until this authority is revoked by further members' ordinary resolution.

DECISION: Members agreed to delegate authority to the trustees with no objections.

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

- RB asked members to approve the re-election of Akiho Schilz (appointed 19 October 2021) to the board.

DECISION: Members approved the re-election of the above named trustee, with no objections.

- RB thanked the trustees who were standing down as of this meeting:

    - Dan Miller (Resigned: 4 December 2025)
    - Joanne Stocks (Resigned: 4 December 2025)

8. Any other business

- RB asked members for any other business. No matters arising were brought forward.

9. Close of meeting

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