

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
HAVERING ARTS COUNCIL HELD AT FAIRKYTES ARTS CENTRE
ON FRIDAY, 23 JUNE 2006**

Members present and apologies, as on list attached.

Chairman Frank Everett, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The minutes of the 2005 AGM held on 24 June were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:

Frank Everett gave his report for the past year and thanked his fellow Officers, Chairmen and Secretaries of sub-committees, the Public Relations Working Party and member groups for their support during the last twelve months. The Report is attached.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY: 2006

Mrs. Pamela Wilkes reported there were 46 societies in membership of HAC at present, with one further group - The Friends of Upminster Windmill - whose application has recently been received and is awaiting formal acceptance. There are also 2 Individual Members and a number of interested former Individual Members from whom we have not asked for subscriptions this year as neither the Executive Committee or the current HAC member societies have yet to come forward with ideas of what we can offer these members as a real incentive to join us. There are so many people across the Borough who are interested in the Arts in some form or another and we are wasting an opportunity to get them more involved.

There are 7 Groups whose membership subscriptions are outstanding at present. Hopefully this is just an oversight by their treasurers and they will remain in membership.

The Executive Committee met on 5 occasions during the year (September & November 2005, January, March & May 2006).

Please will all Secretaries of Groups let her know of any changes in their Officers' details as soon as possible please, so that our records can be kept up to date.

4. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report on the accounts to 31 March 2006 are attached. The accounts show a surplus in 2005/6 of £1606 and a total balance of funds of £13,694.

The budget had been set for 2006/7 which shows an amount of around £2,500 is likely to be available for groups to request as assistance in their activities.

Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Charles Scott and seconded by Jean Curtin.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

No other nominations had been received for Chairman or Secretary. Following the resignation of Charles Scott, nominations had been sought for the post of Deputy Chairman. Two names had been proposed and seconded, but only one was found to be valid after reference to the constitution and therefore Sue Freeman was appointed Deputy Chairman. The Officers for 2006/7 are as follows-

Chairman	Frank Everett
Deputy Chairman	Sue Freeman
Hon. Secretary	Pamela Wilkes
Hon. Treasurer	The Borough Finance Officer is appointed Treasurer of HAC by the London Borough of Havering and Margaret Scott will serve as Deputy Treasurer on the Executive Committee.

The following appointments have been made by the Activity Committees - there is no change from 2005/6. They are :

Drama	Chairman	Anna Martin
	Second Executive Cttee Rep.	Con Chandler
	Secretary	Con Chandler
Music	Chairman	Sue Freeman
	Second Executive Cttee Rep.	Beryl Barbour
	Secretary	Beryl Barbour
Diverse Groups	Chairman	Kathleen Pollard
	Second Executive Cttee Rep.	Jean Curtin
	Secretary	Kathleen Pollard
Visual Arts	Chairman	Steve Huxtable
	Second Executive Cttee Rep.	Steve Huxtable
	Secretary	Steve Huxtable

Visual Arts were urged to encourage their members to take a more active role in order to ease the burden on Steve.

6. HAC WEBSITE:

Sub-committees had been asked to find out if any members would wish to withhold any information. Sue Freeman reported having received a number of notes from members who would not wish their names and telephone numbers to appear - although in some cases the information was already published in the HAC Directory of Members, available from any local public library.

The Chairman asked those present for ideas on what they thought should be included in the website, resulting in the following:

- HAC should be connected with LB of Havering Council and Library sites
- There should be a "discussion board" where the public could put what they want to see included in the Arts in Havering.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS:

Members were invited to put their questions and comments to the Chairman.

1. Subscription rates were queried in that between 20 and 21 members, the subscription rate doubles, while when numbers in a group rise from 49 to 50, there is only £5.00 difference. This was noted and would be looked into.
2. Congratulations were voiced to Bob Sharpe, Chairman of the Upminster Windmill Preservation Trust who has been presented with an MBE for his work. The Secretary was asked to write a letter of congratulation to Bob from HAC.

8. PRESENTATION TO CHARLES SCOTT:

As Charles had served HAC for more than 20 years, on his resignation from Chairman of the Visual Arts sub-committee and a member of the Executive Committee, it was decided to present him with a scroll and gift as a token of our regard. The presentation was made by Chairman Frank Everett on behalf of the members of HAC, and the wording on the scroll is attached. Charles gave a short speech of thanks and said he would miss attending meetings and seeing all his friends, but due to ill health he was unable to continue.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the formal meeting at 8.50p.m. and invited members to take refreshments and socialise generally while attempting the "Catch Phrase Quiz".

Report of the Chairman to Havering Arts Council Annual General Meeting June 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year has followed its standard pattern of activity, our members individually providing a good and varied programme both for members and for audience consumption.

Sadly, one of our long standing events, the Drama Festival, had to be cancelled due to lack of support which, from the amateur theatre point of view was a sad loss. It has happened on one occasion before and was successfully revived for the following year. Discussions are continuing in order to seek the best way forward and not least to decide the best way to obtain a more secure source of funding. We should not be too down hearted about this since drama festival work does tend to have peaks and troughs, but this trough has been particularly deep one.

Grant aid to societies has continued with an increase in those groups seeking assistance, this is encouraging since the money is there to assist member in their activity. It is to be hoped that as time goes on more members will be encouraged to apply for aid to broaden the base of their activity as well assisting their current ventures.

The public relations working party continues its admirable work. The quizzes organised by them are gaining in strength and the publication of a four monthly 'What's On' and the bi-annual Directory continue. I thank all those concerned most sincerely for the work that they do in providing the public face of the Havering Arts Council.

Traditionally I try look forward to the ensuing year. Last year I suggested that we should involve ourselves in seeking the views of members with regard to future activity. For various reasons this was not pursued but I have come to the conclusion that after some 43 years of existence we need to take stock and decide what our future course is to be.

When we first formed the HAC we provided the services to the Borough on a voluntary basis which the present Arts Officer and her assistants provide in admirable fashion professionally. Whilst, over the years, in many ways our role and service to members and the Borough has followed the changes, it has been reactive rather than in any sense proactive.

In looking forward to the coming year our urgent task it to debate and discuss among ourselves, at committee level and at Executive, the future role for the Havering Arts Council within the Borough, and it is essential that **YOU** are part of that discussion.

At the same time we need to enter into discussions with the Art Officer in order that together we may seek to provide the best combination and service to the Arts overall.

In this exercise it is absolutely vital that member societies express their opinion. The way that is best achieved is through the committee structure and it is up to the Chairmen of the sub-committees to encourage their members to attend meetings and to take full part in the discussions.

A well informed executive may then discuss the views expressed and reach conclusions for further discussion at Borough level.

As with last year, the time table should be the same. All reports from sub-committees should be submitted to the General Secretary during February for discussion and consultation by the Executive in order that recommendations may be made to the annual meeting in June 2007. It may well be that the Executive have to hold additional meetings to deal with the matter but I think we have reached a stage now where, if the Arts Council is to have any real future decisions have to be made.

In concluding I wish to thank the public relations working party for their work that they continue to do on our behalf, the Chairman and Secretaries of sub-committees and members who are involved with the activity throughout the year on behalf of both myself and the Executive

Members. May I also thank my fellow officers who give their time to ensure that the work of the Arts Council is carried on in a smooth and in an organised manner.

I would also thank most sincerely the London Borough of Havering for their continued support both financially and materially.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen for your attendance and for listening to me this evening and may I ask you as you go away to consider the future of our Arts Council and pressurise your member colleagues to attend their sub-committees and take part in the 'Great Debate'.

Frank Everett
Chairman

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