



CHURCH OF ENGLAND FLOWER ARRANGERS' ASSOCIATION
Registered Charity No. 514372

***Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Association,
held at St Michael's Church Hall, Filey Road, Scarborough,
on Saturday 1st June 2019***

WELCOMES

1. Ruth Thomson (York) welcomed members to Scarborough and invited Rev David Dixon to lead us in worship. Rev Dixon added his welcome to the parish of St Martin-on-the-Hill and in particular to St Michael's. There was a short act of worship culminating in the Association prayer.
- 1.1 Averill Lovatt (National Chair) added her welcome and presented the President with the ribbon and badge of her office.
- 1.2 Averill also brought to the attention of the meeting the amount of work that Mark Edwards does in the background to support the Association in maintaining the website and preparing the magazine for the printers. A vote of thanks was recorded to Mark for his work.
- 1.3 She also thanked Pam Stranger (York) for her support for Ruth in typing up all the material which then goes to Mark. A vote of thanks was recorded to Pam for her work.

APOLOGIES & CORRESPONDENCE

2. Apologies were received from Frances Yates (Chair Southwell & Notts branch); Carole Harvey (Chair London Branch); Keith Harvey (London) and Carole Croft (Secretary Southwell & Notts Branch).
- 2.1 The National Secretary reported that he had received an e-mail from Mark Edwards in which Mark had made the generous offer on behalf of Eileen (his mother) and himself to reduce the fee he receives for his work from £400 to £50 for the year July 2019/June *2020. He asked Eileen to pass on the Association thanks to Mark for this generous offer and said that the National Chair would be formally writing to acknowledge his generosity. **ACTION National Chair.**

MATTERS ARISING FROM 2018 AGM

3. The report (minutes) of the Annual General Meeting held in Barnet (London Branch) on 2nd June 2018 had been circulated in 'Faith & Flowers' and with the agenda for the meeting. The National Chair asked for acceptance of the report. Proposed by Judith Whalley (Birmingham), seconded by Ada Fawthrop (Derby) and agreed unanimously. National Chair signed the minutes as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM 2018 AGM

4. Appointment of National Vice-Chairman – No nominations were received so the position remains vacant.

REPORT FROM NATIONAL SECRETARY

5. Alternative group arrangements;

Laurie Little said that this had come out of a discussion at last council meeting as to whether members in York area there are 9 can be other than a branch, as it is felt that there were insufficient members/geographical distances making it difficult to appoint officers/committee. He said that there were no provisions in the constitution other than for branches. He mentioned also others on the database that were in groups/areas and not in branches and was concerned how we support these members. His plan was to take this issue back to the Council meeting in October with proposals which if agreed will be brought to the AGM in 2020. This sparked a discussion about how best these areas or groups could be accommodated. The National Secretary agreed, having listened to the various comments/suggestions made, to take this away again and come up as he had said with proposals for the Council to consider and report back to the 20220 AGM. **ACTION National Secretary.**

5.1 Discussion also took place on the best ways to promote CEFAA. Facebook, twitter and other methods of modern communications were mentioned. A suggestion was made about having an article in a national church newspaper and Hillary Brian mentioned that she had a contact. The national secretary asked her to pass on the details to him. Laurie Little also encouraged members to get articles into their own diocesan magazines and in their church magazines. **ACTION Hillary Brian.**

5.1 Membership

He reported that the subscription renewal rate has been very encouraging with most people paying very soon into April. Three members had decided not to renew and 2 who had passed away during the last year about whom we were not notified; (Doreen Taft and Jean Fowler). He reported that membership is 228 but out of this 32 people had not yet renewed. Since the AGM last year, we had enrolled 10 new members.

5.2 Website

He thanked Mark Edwards for his work on updating our website and urged branch chairs/secretaries to keep offering updates to the entries on their respective pages. He stressed the importance of keeping the pages relevant and up to date.

ELECTIONS:

Confirmation of election/re-election of National Council Members.

6. The following were confirmed in post:

Derby: Julie Franks (Chair) and Margaret Phyphers (Council Member)

Liverpool: Diane Harrison (Chair) and the councilmember post remains unfilled.

London: Carole Harvey (Chair) and Trisha Salmon (Council Member)

Southwell & Notts: Frances Yates (chair) and Hillary Brian (Council Member)

York: Ruth Thomson

Elect up to 4 additional members to Council [as agreed at the 2018 AGM].

6.1 Nominations from the floor were sought to fill the additional 4 posts on council. National chair explained that these could be any members and encouraged non-branch members to consider accepting nominations.

- Judith Whalley (Birmingham) nominated by Averill Lovatt & seconded by Roger Brown
- Kathleen Chapman (Bolton) nominated by Averill Lovatt & seconded by Ada Fawthrop
- Alison Smith (Bolton) nominated by June Wilcox (York) & Seconded by Naomi Hadden (Liverpool)
- Valerie Brett (London) nominated by June Wilcox (York) & Seconded by Naomi Hadden (Liverpool)

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES.

7. Current Trustees: - Hillary Brian, Roger Brown, Ruth Thomson, Alethea Fielding

It was proposed by Annette Godfrey (Southwell & Notts) and seconded by Ruth Thomson (York) that Averill Lovatt and Laurie Little be added to the list of trustees, and this was agreed unanimously.

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

8. The National Chair explained to the meeting the difficulties that had been encountered in transferring the bank account from Naomi Hadden in Liverpool to Sonia Kingsland in London and changing signatories. It was therefore of the past Treasurer Naomi Hadden who was making the report and submitting the independently examined accounts.

8.1 The accounts were presented showing income for 2019 at £2,423.50 and expenditure of £4,180.82 a shortfall of £2,423.50 for the year. The business reserve account stands at £2,819.69. Naomi explained that the higher level of expenditure was due to a printing bill for 2018 arriving late and therefore included in 2019 expenditure. Additionally, we had purchased a new supply of badges and ribbons and jewel for President all of which had added additional expenditure.

PRESENTATION OF BRIEF ANNUAL REPORTS FROM CEFAA DIOCESAN BRANCHES.

9. Reports were read by the chair of Liverpool, the council members for Southwell & Notts, and Derby and by the National Secretary on behalf of London branch. These are appended to these minutes and will appear on the website in due course.

Ruth Thomson (York) reported on the very difficult times they were having with the professional head flower arranger at York Minster. At present CEFAA members can continue to do weekly flowers but are no longer invited to undertake arrangements for special occasions or festivals.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

10. Averill Lovatt told the meeting that her motto for CEFAA was faith, fellowship, friendship, flowers, food and fun. She had recently visited Birmingham and met the member there, Judith Whalley, and been made very welcome at the Derby branch and hoped in the coming year to visit other branches.

She spoke about the good practice in branches of visiting each other's churches for their meetings and perhaps in churches where there were no CEFAA members. The importance being to encourage growth in the Association. She spoke of involving children in arranging in church and the importance of encouraging younger flower arrangers and mentioned in some places members had been involving their grandchildren and fledglings.

She thanked members for their support, friendship and encouragement during the past year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. There was none.

DATE AND VENUE FOR 2020 AGM.

12. The National Chair said that these would be agreed at the next council meeting to be held at her home on 12 October 2019. However, Judith Whalley (Birmingham) was, subject to the Dean's approval, offering to hold the meeting in the cathedral in Birmingham. Members thought this a good venue being very central in the country. Judith was asked to come back to the council meeting with some firm proposals. **ACTION: Judith Whalley**

Signed as a true record
Averill Lovatt, National Chair
June 2020