

CLOA AGM 2011, Blenheim Palace, May 2011

Minutes

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Blenheim Palace CEO, John Hoy, and his team as hosts

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted (see below). There were 22 members present, 3 fewer than the 25 required for a quorum. David Albutt said that 3 members had sent very late apologies and had agreed that the Chair could vote on their behalf by proxy. This was a practice adopted in 2009 and members had not objected. It was agreed to go ahead on this basis and that Members would be notified and asked for comments; if there were no objections, the Executive Committee would be invited to ratify the decisions taken at its forthcoming meeting

2. Minutes of AGM, July 2010

These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

2.1 Matters arising

No matters arising.

3. CLOA Updates

Nigel Lynn reported as Chair

Standing down after a hectic 2 years, Nigel referred to the achievements of CLOA over the past two years. He reminded us of how much CLOA has developed and influenced culture over this period by working with DCMS, Arts Council, Sport England, the Sport and Recreation Alliance, Skills Active and the Local Government Association (LGA). CLOA is an "essential ear to the ground" and advisor to the LGA and has advised on free swimming, the library review, school sport and the health bill. CLOA has worked directly with Martyn Allison (IDEA – now LGID) on a number of issues. Nigel has spoken on the training seminars for Councillors involved in culture and sport at the Member Leadership academies. CLOA is indebted to Martyn for his help and guidance. Nigel has met Ed Vaizey MP, Minister for the Arts, on the library review and the Arts Council restructure on two occasions to provide a CLOA perspective.

Despite the loss of a number of culture and leisure posts in local government, over the last 2 years CLOA has actually increased its membership. Nigel felt that CLOA

remains a healthy, vibrant and meaningful organisation which continues to influence policy in the cultural sector and beyond. CLOA has made an offer to the LGA to lead the improvement agenda, which is a priority for the future.

Nigel concluded by thanking the Executive and Officers of CLOA for their support

John Bell reported as Honorary Secretary

John referred to the AGM 2010 hosted by the London Borough of Newham. Following the meeting many of the delegates were able to take advantage of a tour of the Olympic Park and see the major venues in the course of construction.

The Executive has met 4 times during the year and also taken part in a special joint seminar meeting with the LGG officers. Agenda items have been dominated by the 'new landscape' of local (and central) government. In the last year we have seen the abolition of many familiar names that include: Audit commission, MLA, RDA's and major changes to DCMS and IDeA. The Comprehensive Spending Review has had a major impact on local government and this continues to reverberate through all of the Sport, Culture and Heritage Sector.

Other items considered have been the Libraries Review; National Culture Forum (including the Leadership Programme); International collaboration; the new Institute of Sport and Physical Activity and Membership Development, thanks to Rodney Hill for his work on this last item. Mark Allman and John have represented CLOA on the SPELG (Skills Protocol) group covered by Skills Active. The Group's report culminated in a launch at the House of Commons on the 4th May.

The LGA/CLOA Conference this year was held in York, with a new format which offered more discussion sessions than in previous years. The Panel Discussion participants included Nigel Lynn, chair of CLOA. Iain Varah, Chair of NCF, led one of the workshop sessions with Sue Isherwood, Director of the NCF Leadership Learning programme.

The CLOA fringe meeting took place in the Royal York Hotel on the evening of the first day of the conference. The meeting was well attended, with a number of lead Elected Members for Leisure Culture attending which was an opportunity to publicise CLOA to members. Nigel Lynn spoke to an audience of around 70, welcoming all present and outlining CLOA's contribution to our sector.

In January this year John was appointed a Director of the Sport and Recreation Alliance following application and interview. His role with CLOA was said to be important to the decision-making panel. He continues to write commissioned articles on CLOA's behalf for Leisure Management: the most recent being on Ravenscraig Leisure Strategy in Scotland.

David Albutt reported as Executive Secretary

He made particular reference to:

- CLOA meetings
- Seminars and Conferences
- Core business
- LGA Advisory Panel
- Consultations
- Membership Development
- Sponsors

4.0 Financial Reports:

4.1 Income & Expenditure Accounts for 2010/2011

David Albutt presented the accounts on behalf of Ian Shipp, Honorary Secretary, and responded to queries. The meeting agreed unanimously to adopt the accounts

4.2 Appointment of Auditors for 2010/2011

The meeting unanimously agreed to re-appoint TaxAssist as auditors

4.3 CLOA Membership Fees 2011/2012

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Honorary Treasurer's recommendations for membership fees to be effective April 2012

4.4 Proposed Budget 2010/2011

The budget set out in a document previously circulated was approved by the meeting.

4.5 Honorary Treasurer

It was unanimously agreed that Ian Shipp would continue as Honorary Treasurer

5. CLOA Constitution

The meeting unanimously agreed to the changes suggested to the Constitution, previously circulated

6. Executive Committee Nominations

The nominations set out in the paper previously circulated were unanimously agreed, there being no need for a vote

7. Vote of Thanks

The new Chair, Richard Hunt, welcomed new Executive committee members and thanked those who had been on the committee last year. He particularly thanked the now Immediate Past Chair, Nigel Lynn, for his hard work over the last 2 years

8. Other business

None had been notified by the deadline

Sue Isherwood said that the NCF Leading Learning Programme continues to be a success, and we do need delegates soon for the fourth cohort