

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date:		Wednesday 18 June 2025
Place:		Virtually via Teams
Times:		0915 - 1000
Attended:		Julie Russell, Donna Pentelow, Grant Taylor, Tony Mabbott, Cassie Bridger, Sophie Payne, Phil Barker, Iain Varah, Val Birchall, Mark Croston, Shane Williams, Bethany Goodman, Tony Witton, Daniel Ball, Monica Thomas, Thorsten Dreyer, Vincent Paliczka, Louise Egan, Robert Campbell, Mark Allman, Jesse Briton, Nigel Lynn, Jo Evans, Sean McBurney, Paula Redway, Hannah Dix, Hagan Lewisman, Kate Price, Bobsie Robinson, Zsuzsi Lindsay, Penny Greenwood-Pearsons, Caroline Rae, Tom Gubbins, Christelle Beaupoux, Felicity Harrison, April Peberdy, Matt Partridge, Michelle Moubarak, Ian Jones, Sue Thiedeman, Polly Hamilton, Dan Peters
Apologies Received		Dan Buck, Ullash Karia, Jayne Knight, Debbie Kaye
Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, decisions taken and actions agreed
1.	Welcome and Minutes from AGM 2024	42 CLOA members participated in the AGM via Teams, which exceeded the quorate requirement for a minimum number of 25. Further delegates joined during the course of the conference, including speakers, showcase presenters and strategic partners bringing it to a total of 76 throughout the course of the event.
2.	Chair of CLOA Annual Report	<p>Julie Russell reflected on her final year in office, the full report is available here, highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working context with recent local elections that have reshaped the political landscape and major changes to local government are expected. • Over the last year, CLOA has supported leadership development through presenting at LGA programmes and offered enhanced member engagement via website updates, e-bulletins, roundtables, and peer support, also hosting a meeting specifically focused on local government reorganisation and devolution. • CLOA continues to advocate nationally, engaging with MPs, DCMS, and participated in the Arts Council England Review. Collaboration is ongoing with LGA and other stakeholders to influence policy and funding. The association has been making calls for longer-term financial settlements for local government, less competitive

		<p>funding and promotion of more integrated, community-focused local governance models.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for our sector relies on good evidence and robust data: and across the cultural remit, Thorsten Dryer and Val Birchall, have been involved in work to improve sector data through the National Cultural Data Observatory and National Heritage Capital Project. And Penny Greenwood-Pearsons has been involved with Sport England's Moving Communities Board, promoting impact measurement using QALY and WELLBY metrics. • Other key networks and initiatives that the Executive have convened or supported are:- the National Alliance for Cultural Services, Chaired by Val Birchall and the Active Wellbeing Leadership Network convened by Julie Russell, which is now central to national discussions on health and physical activity. • Active engagement with Welsh members continues to be led by Caroline O'Neill and Ian Jones via Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Wales Groups. • Special thanks were given to Zsuzsi Lindsay for championing our EDI work and Heidi Bellamy for being 'the engine' behind the scenes. • Thanks were extended to all Executive Committee members not mentioned individually and it was noted that the incoming cohort is now more diverse and resilient, reflecting sector demographics. <p>The minutes of the AGM held on 26 June 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record. (25 'Yes' responses via the voting poll and Chat)</p>
3.	Honorary Treasurers Report and Budget for 25/26	<p>Honorary Treasurer Vince Paliczka gave a report; a full version is available on the website here.</p> <p>Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The accounts for year ending March 31 2025 had been made available on the CLOA website in advance of the meeting. • VP advised that the final accounts show a surplus of £8,952, which is £5,160 more than budgeted. Key Contributors to this surplus were Increased sponsorship income (+£4,820), unused Building Capacity Project funds (+£2,268), savings in meeting costs, travel, and executive meeting expenses. • VP thanked our principal sponsors Xn Leisure and Playfootball for their continued support and our Associate sponsors Blake Morgan and BigWave Marketing.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure has been tightly controlled; some overspend on admin fees due to successful sponsorship and membership efforts by Culture First. • The association net assets now stand at £53,220, up from £44,268. • Membership subscriptions remain stable with a shift toward corporate memberships, increasing income and engagement. A new policy has been introduced - non-renewals by 1st June will result in withdrawal of membership. • In addition to the reserves policy, of which 50% is protected for administration; 50% available is for CLOA objectives. In the 2025/26 Budget this includes £5,268 for Building Capacity Project (carry forward + new allocation), £1,200 for member needs research and £1,000 for supporting member initiatives such as roundtables. • A deficit of £2,005 is projected, which is planned and covered by carry-forward funds • There is no proposed increase in membership fees for next year. • VP thanked Heidi Bellamy and Anelli Bryant for their support. <p>VP proposed that members accept the final accounts for 2024/25 and agree the proposed budget for current financial year.</p> <p>The accounts were accepted by the members in attendance (29 'Yes' responses via the voting poll and Chat) and the budget for 25/26 was approved (33 'Yes' responses via the voting poll and Chat).</p>
4.	Update from the EDI Champion	Zsuzsi Lindsay, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion, gave a report on progress against the EDI action plan which is available on the website here .
5.	Award of Honorary membership	<p>Two people were awarded Honorary Membership, which seeks to recognise individuals who are making or who have made a significant contribution to the development of the cultural and leisure disciplines nationally and/or internationally.</p> <p>Matt Partridge was nominated by Val Birchall and Debbie Kaye was nominated by Julie Russell & Zsuzsi Lindsay.</p> <p>Action – Heidi Bellamy to formally advise of bestowment of this Honorary award.</p>
6.	Appointment of Executive Committee – Honorary Secretary	<p>Mark Allman confirmed the appointment of the CLOA Executive; as no more than the required number of people were nominated, all candidates were automatically appointed.</p> <p>New members of the Committee were warmly welcomed:- Kate Price, Dan Buck, Grant Taylor, Shane Williams, Caroline Rae, Tom Gubbins, Jayne Knight and Tony Witton.</p>

7.	AOB	Julie Russell asked the members attending if there was any other business they wished to raise – none was forthcoming.
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