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| **THE FOLLY FELLOWSHIP, GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**Friday 22nd March 2024 @ 2.40 pm, held in The Cloisters, Letchworth Garden City  |
| **Present**: 21 members (including two Trustees) |
| **Apologies:** were received from nine members (via Membership Secretary).  |
| Welcome | Mary Bright (MB) welcomed all members and thanked them for coming; Gwyn Headley for finding the venue; Iain Gray (IG) for arrangements and paperwork. MB told the meeting that some members had received a communication from a fellow member (who was not present) which was untrue and libellous and she will be seeking an apology. MB now able to tell the members that a bequest to The Folly Fellowship was made by Rita and Pieter Boogaart. | MB |
| Appointment of Charity Trustees | Current three Trustees (IG/MB/Elizabeth Waters (EW)) are willing to stand again; Andrew Plumridge (AP) suggested that as no nomination papers had been circulated they caretake for six months until an election; meeting agreed a one-year term. IG proposed Patrick Todd (PT) as a Trustee, seconded by Graham Hebden (GH) – meeting agreed to co-opt PT with an election to follow in 12 months. MB thanked PT. |  |
| To receive the Accounts  | MB notified the meeting that the FF will inherit £240k broken down into three tranches from Rita & Pieter Boogaart with first £98k received. FF members can access the accounts via the website, Companies House and the Charity Commission. IG rounded figures up/down to year ended 31 May 2023 which showed a downturn of £1,200 but this will change looking ahead; Gift Aid received just under £1,600; events cost £3,100 but produced £3,600. AP stated that as members have not seen copies of the current accounts they could not be accepted; in addition, they are not correct. AP wants the money received from Ram Alley to be ring fenced for Browns Folly. MB stated that the accounts can be emailed to all members with paper copies to non-email. AP queried whether a new Independent Examiner should be appointed as current postholder has been ill – IG stated that current IE will continue.IG unaware until last August that the Annual Return had not been submitted for the last two years due to staff changes at Accountant.IG addressed the six points raised in the communication sent to 12 members present, but excluding the Trustees, which included claims of maladministration and misappropriation of funds.Ian Woodcock (IW) proposed the meeting agree the accounts to 31.5.22 with accounts to 31.5.23 to be agreed 31.5.24, seconded by Sally Paque (SP), 13 attendees agreed. | MB/IG |
| To discuss future events | Jonathan Holt (JH) talked about the upcoming trips to Hertfordshire (18 May), Paris (5-8 September) and The Peak District (15-16 June).MB thanked Alan Terrill (AT) for the website; stated the need to find a volunteer to organise the Garden Party; following the success of Rory Fraser’s exhibition at the Art Workers Guild in 2021 possibly organise something similar; should journal be replaced with relevant book as before? IG proposed AP resurrect the journal but he stated there are problems receiving relevant academic articles.AP has received complaints from some members that they are unable to obtain places on trips and suggested that the website visits and magazine are released at the same time. GH suggested that events have a “date to be booked from” as Norma Hebden (NH) said that not everyone reads their magazine when it arrives – MB to discuss with EW, Events Co-Ordinator.  | MB |
| Any Other Business | Peter Cook (PC) told the meeting that the Georgian Group have a “young” membership category with reduced rates so could the FF consider something similar, say for the under 40’s, to attract new members as we need to grow the membership?AT receives communications via the website about Browns Folly – AP stated that he responds to YouTube videos of “Urban Warriors” accessing it as well as putting up signage which has been removed. AP will use Ram Alley funds to block up the door in the short term, subject to listed building consent. NH asked if the staircase could be reinstated – AP confirmed it could.AT suggested the Boogaart legacy could be used to fund a student to create a folly database – Iain Jackson to be approached.AP asked members to submit folly related articles for the magazine rather than art. | TrusteesAPTrustees |
|  | MB brought the meeting to a close at 4.12 p.m. after thanks given to AT (Webmaster) and Gloria Powell (Membership Secretary). |  |