

WEST STREET POTTERS
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2018 @ 11:00am
AT FARNHAM POTTERY
MINUTES

Directors Present: Keith Broadhead (KB), Daniel Pratap (DP), Kathy Mason (KM), Roly Phillips (RP), William England (WE), Paul Wonnacott (PW)

Chair: Keith Broadhead (KB)

Apologies for absence - Ann Watson (AW), Glenda Anderson (GA)

Tutors present:

Julia Quigley

Katrina Evangelidou

Christine Bull

Jane Jones (arrived at 11:50)

Members present:

Veronica Jeans, Shirley Shiner, Tony Cohen, Patricia Boyle, Louis Wilkes, Rachel Dance

Present - including Directors = 16

Keith Broadhead (KB) opened the meeting at 11:08am, introduced the Directors to those present, gave apologies and thanked those assembled for attending.

The Formal Ordinary Business of the meeting was opened

Item 1: To receive the Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st July 2018

Copies of West Street Potters Directors' Report and Financial Statements were made available to those requiring copies; the report was read and a vote was put to those present.

Passed: *nem. con.*

There were questions from those attending, regarding the amount of surplus showing in the annual accounts. Louis Wilkes (LW), seconded by Tony Cohen (TC), asked for an explanation for the increased surplus and a clear understanding as to how the money will be spent. The Directors thanked LW for his question and explained that further explanation would be forthcoming as to the long-term plans for WSP. KB explained that income had increased due to additional classes and some costs had been reduced. Fees have been held again and LW agreed that fees should be maintained at the current level. KB also explained that a 4-year fixed price contract with British Gas had been secured, thus enabling WSP to maintain firing charges at the current level.

At this point KB returned to the Agenda - Item 2

Item 2: To receive, and if thought fit approve the Accounts for the year ending 31st July 2018

Passed: *nem. con.*

Item 3: Glenda Anderson resigns as a Director by rotation but, being eligible, offers herself for re-election.

Passed: *nem. con.*

Item 4: Paul Wonnacott resigns as a Director, following his appointment on October 6th 2018 but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Item 5: William England resigns as a Director, following his appointment on October 6th 2018 but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Items 4 & 5 were taken together

Passed: *nem. con.*

The formal business of the meeting concluded at 11:25am. Questions / comments were then invited from the floor.

KB then asked Kathy Mason (KM) to explain to those attending the current situation with regards to long-term plans.

KM reiterated that the Board are mindful of the surplus and its availability to spend. However, she also reminded those present that all the members of the Board are voluntary and that sometimes energy dissipates. She also reminded those present that new members are always welcome and how delighted WSP are that William England (WE) and Paul Wonnacott (PW) have joined us.

KM then gave a list of equipment that is to be replaced or sourced.

KM then gave an overview of the problems that have occurred with the biscuit kiln. At first thought to be human error, WSP now understand that the flue of the biscuit kiln opens at the top of the kiln, so a solution has been found by the installation of a kiln shelf above the flue. Most of those attending knew about the deterioration of the gas kiln flue and subsequent repair. All this has led to Guy Hains (GH), WSP landlord, requiring some major changes to the kiln area. In short GH and Laurence Peskett (LP) have prepared initial plans to re-establish a separate kiln room. As KM explained, this may have an impact on WSP because it may encroach on the space that WSP rent from GH. KM read out an email from GH regarding this ongoing project and explained that a formal meeting has yet to be agreed between GH and WSP. TC asked what proportion of the cost of work would be WSP

responsibility? At the time of writing, WSP understanding is that it is not WSP responsibility but GH expects WSP to fund the work 100%. The final costings are not known but a figure of £25k has been mentioned.

KM further explained that, tying in with WSP long-term plans to re-jig workshop space, whatever is decided needs to be in the best interest of WSP. LW asked questions about the lease. KB explained that, should WSP pay for the works, we would need assurances. Technically, this is not a WSP problem but we need to ensure safety, irrespective of who is financially responsible. Christine Bull (CB) felt that the proposal was GH's responsibility. KB explained that although technically it is down to GH, there are other factors to consider. Negotiations are ongoing and no decision has yet been made.

Further suggestion was made that the new kiln room would contain all 3 kilns - biscuit, gas and Stewart. Julia Quigley (JQ) felt that the changes would not have as large an impact as was feared and KM once again explained that the plans had not been finalised. It was felt that GH needs to give us an understanding of his own long-term plans for the Farnham Pottery site.

Katrina Evangelidou (KE) asked what consideration was being given to improved clay storage. She felt that classes held in the evening had a disadvantage over those held during the day, particularly if clay storage was to be in the 318 Ceramics part of the pottery site. It was explained that no firm plans had, as yet, been made and that the Directors were mindful of convenience to all students. KE was keen to see some items prioritised.

JQ explained that WSP were "victims of our own success" and that these frustrations, she was confident, could be overcome. She also thanked everyone for their hard work in pulling together to make WSP work so well.

Patricia Boyle (PB) asked what would happen if we do not change the kiln area?

LW asked about the sculpture classes. It was explained that Jane Jones (JJ) holds 4 classes each week. Those students are all WSP Members.

KM re-iterated that there will be more space available for students once the re-configuration of the workshop takes place.

KE requested again that operational focus needs to be prioritised. KM explained that perhaps, an on-site caretaker, might allay some of the frustrations.

KE also requested that masks for use with the spray gun be made available to WSP Members, FOC. Roly Phillips (RP) suggested that each tutor had one box of masks (x20) per class, per year, to distribute as they saw fit, as a gesture of goodwill. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the Board Meeting to follow the AGM and the decision relayed to tutors after that meeting.

JQ questioned again the lighting in the car park. It was felt that GH had not responded to previous requests to improve the lighting and so JQ suggested we take the matter into our own hands. Again, this item will be discussed further at the Board Meeting to follow and the decision will be relayed to tutors.

TC requested that the three taps within the workshop - although the responsibility of GH - be repaired by WSP. Once again this will be discussed and agreed at the Board Meeting to follow.

PB queried the problems parking when attending classes. KB reminded those present that WSP are limited to 3 parking spaces, at any one time, dependant on the other users of the site.

JQ extended congratulations to everyone involved in the recent WSP exhibition. Shirley Shiner (SS) and Veronica Jeans (VJ) asked for feedback to Members regarding comments from visitors, etc. Rachel Dance (RD) explained that there had been a Visitors Book.

Keith Broadhead (KB) brought the conversation to a close, thanked Kathy Mason - and the sub-committee - for all their hard work and, there being no further questions, the meeting closed at 12:00noon.