



Founded 1921 by Sir Hugh Walpole President: Amanda Ridout

Chair: Lisa Milton Vice Chair: Amanda Harris

Hon Sec: Hermione Ireland Hon Treasurer: Jonathan Paterson

www.thebooksociety.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOOK SOCIETY

TUESDAY 20TH MAY 2025 5.15PM

(at Brown's, and remotely on GOOGLE MEET)

1. Minutes of the last AGM were passed.
2. Matters arising not on the Agenda: there were none.
3. The Chair's Report (Lisa Milton, Chair 2024-2025) – read here:
<https://thebooksociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Chairs-Report-Lisa-Milton-2024-5.pdf>
4. The Financial Report for 2024 (presented by David Headley on behalf of Hon Treasurer Jonathan Paterson) – read here: <https://thebooksociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/The-Book-Society-Treasurers-Report-2024.pdf>
5. The Membership Report for 2024 (presented by Jo Dawson on behalf of Hon Secretary Hermione Ireland) – read here: <https://thebooksociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/The-Book-Society-Secretarys-Report-2025.pdf>
6. Election of Officers and Committee Members:
Amanda Harris elected as Chair for 2025-2026
David Headley elected as Vice Chair for 2025-2026
Truda Spruyt elected as Hon Secretary (ongoing)
Jonathan Paterson re-elected as Hon Treasurer (ongoing)

The following Committee Members are standing down:

Jamie Hodder-Williams

Hermione Ireland

Election of new Committee Members:

Rebecca Gray

Therefore the new Committee for 2025-2026 is:

1. **Chair:** Amanda Harris
2. **Vice-Chair:** David Headley
3. **Hon Secretary:** Truda Spruyt
4. **Hon Treasurer:** Jonathan Paterson
5. Lisa Milton
6. Emma Shercliff
7. Cath Summerhayes
8. Philip Jones
9. Rebecca Gray

7. Any other business:

- New Committee to review current membership list and focus on targeted outreach for areas of the industry currently unrepresented e.g. libraries, smaller publishing houses.
- Committee proposal for a member survey to help identify the current make-up of the membership and therefore what the underrepresented areas are. Proposal for survey to be presented later in the year, to be commissioned externally (£) now that Book Society finances are in better shape.
- Sponsoring dinner places and memberships to be revisited by the Committee now that Book Society finances are in better shape. Potential for commercial sponsorship from e.g. CGI (who have offered). Poor take-up for scheme previously but needs to be simpler and better communicated.
- The Book Society Constitution needs to be reviewed by the Committee with any amendments proposed and agreed at the next AGM e.g. minimum attendance at dinners, election to honorary membership.
- The Book Society needs to define its mission and purpose. Committee to discuss.
- Committee to review criteria for approving nominated members – more diverse, younger members vs senior leaders.
- Would it be possible to have a members directory on the website (password protected)? Committee to discuss what would be desirable and Jo Dawson to work out implementation with Simon Appleby (Book Society member and Founder of Bookswarm who provide our website support)
- Should we have a Code of Conduct? A useful tool to reassure members and guests that events will be both fun and safe. Suggested example
<https://brightonruby.com/misc/code-of-conduct/>