MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF SHROPSHIRE ARFT SOCIETY

SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2025

1i Present: Phil Hadley (Chair), Pat Holbourne Williams, Christine Gilbert, Melanie Houlder, Sandra Lane, Lynne Morgan, Mick Krupa, Anna Hayes, Shirley Wade, Tim Parker, Rob Leckey, Lena Jarl Churm, Laura Kemshall, Wendy Brookfield, Sheila Martin, Ros Rawlinson, Bob Spendlove, John Willetts, Audrey Menhinick, Susan Mann, Gillian Mortimer, Sally Blake, Alan Townsend, Lesley Leek, Margaret Rowson, Jayne Thomas, David Ray, Victoria Katz, Jo Thompson, Wilf Langford, Ja Edwards, Judi Willerton, Paul Cronin, Sandra Sadowska, Graham Hall, Rob Corfield, Sarah Kowenicki, Margaret Cumming.

1ii In Attendance: Malcolm Rowson, Jane Barnes, Brian Churm, David Pilgrim.

1iii Apologies: Jayne Griffiths, Val Alexander, Frank Hilton, Stephen Clayton.

2 The Minutes of the AGM held on November 16th 2024 were approved. Proposed by Shirley Wade and seconded by Margaret Rowson that Minutes be accepted. Agreed.

3 Matters Arising: The Chair referred to his comment in the Annual Report 2024 that he would be resigning at this meeting. Recent uncertainty around the role of Secretary has delayed this action but he stated clearly that he would not serve beyond the AGM 2026.

4 Annual Report 2024/2025. Chair presented the Annual Report of the Society for the year 2024/25, previously circulated and appended to these minutes. He commented on the wide range of activities offered to members and offered thanks to everyone whose work behind the scenes had made these activities possible. Proposed by Tim Parker and seconded by Judi Willerton that the report be received. Unanimously agreed.

5 Statement of Accounts and Treasurer's Report. Sarah Kowenicki (Treasurer) reported that the accounts had been audited and signed and circulated in advance of the meeting. The Society remains financially sound with a surplus of income over expenditure for the year. However, it should be noted that the Society faces increasing costs, most notably: Hororaria for Webmaster, Secretary and Treasurer, storage costs and banking charges .

She thanked Rob Leckey, Phil Hadley and Sally Blake for their support during her first year in office.

It was proposed by Paul Cronin, seconded by Bob Spendlove, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Agreed.

6 Election of members to the Committee.

Honorary Secretary. Phil Hadley paid tribute to **Frank Hilton's** work as Secretary for over ten years: a period that had seen major changes in the way that the Society operates. The change to a largely paper-free communications network and the delivery of a quality Focal Points had made the Society a much more robust and forward looking organisation. The vacancy has already been published, unsuccessfully, in Focal

Points. The search for a replacement continues. This is obviously a vital role – the Society cannot continue without a Secretary.

Webmaster Also retiring at this AGM is **Sally Blake**, Webmaster – a role that she has held for over 12 years.. Phil Hadley paid tribute to her enormous contribution to the Society's move to becoming an "electronic" organisation . Her skills and knowledge have also helped move the Society forward at a time of great change.

The Chair introduced Laura Kemshall to the meeting as a potential Webmaster. It was proposed by Sally Blake, seconded by Rob Leckey, that she be co-opted to the committee. Agreed. It was also proposed by Sally Blake, seconded by Wilf Langford, that Lauiara Kemshall be appointed Webmaster. Agreed.

Other vacancies The list of other committee members who have reached the end of their term and being willing to stand again having been circulated, it was proposed by Margaret Rowson, seconded by Sarah Kowenicki, that they be reappointed to the committee. Agreed.

7 To determine the 2026 Membership subscription. It was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Sally Blake that the annual subscription for 2026 be set at £25 with the joining fee remaining at £10. Agreed.

8 Vote of Thanks In proposing a vote of thanks to the Officers of the Society, the Committee, all those involved in organising, tutoring and volunteering at the Society's activities, Wilf Langford also commented on the continuing strength of the Society. He highlighted the expanding role that the Society is making to the local community – especially the Churches' Conservation Trust and Severn Hospice. He also thanked Bob Spendlove for his work making the AGM such a well- attended success. He also thanked the "kitchen staff" for their work.

9 Any Other Business

9i–Lena Jarl asked about current membership numbers – 176.

9ii- it was proposed by Phil Hadley, seconded by Sally Blake that Frank Hilton be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Society for his outstanding work as its Secretary. Agreed.

9iii Bob Spendlove presented Margaret Rowson with a bouquet to thank her for the work she had done to make Sketch Club such a success. He also thanked her husband Malcolm for his role as IT expert, driver….

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.16pm