

Final Minutes – RPS CG meeting 2023-12-11

Present : Tom Owens, Mike Kitson, Paul Ashley, Steven Whittaker, Sean Goodhart, Steff Hutchinson, Tim Hancock (reporting).

Apologies : Alan Cameron, Nick Linnett, Patricia Ruddle, Duncan Unsworth, Christine Pinnington, Adrian Hough.

Previous minutes

Previously circulated by email for comment and agreed and ready to go on website.

Terms of Reference

TO outlined the initiative being led by Bristol to create a generic TOR for SIGS rather than each having its own Constitution. In addition to this, a Statement of Purpose for individual SIGs will be needed – see below. CG SIG created a new Constitution only recently which TO used to amend draft generic TOR, and is working with Travel SIG on this new document. The aim is to get a draft to Dan Jones by Xmas for him to review. The meeting went through the draft, and made several comments which were noted by TO who will now send the amended draft on to Simon Freemont who is chair of MemCom. Regions are also creating a generic TOR.

CG Purpose document

TO presented the draft CN Purpose doc. The meeting suggested adding “Give support to individual CG SIG members who are looking for a Distinction” for the future. Visual Arts have a A/F support group which CG could emulate. One CG member has asked for such support and TH will be put him in contact with a Committee member who has a distinction in CG.

Broadcasts

RPS House is under pressure from SIGs to send out Broadcasts to other SIGs to boost awareness of events etc. Volunteer Staff hours are changing at the year end with Janina Pilch working weekdays and Laura Gardner weekends. Broadcasts are also planned to be replaced by a new Salesforce application next year. RPS Open Doors will now be cut back and close Monday to Wednesday matching the Martin Parr Foundation Gallery hours. RPS are well aware of the issue of multi-SIG broadcasting and we await developments.

International membership

Janet Haines has been in contact with TO and MK about increasing international RPS memberships of SIGS. CG has such a membership of over 10%, and presumably are thought to be doing well in this respect. Given the website, Journal and Concept distribution to International members and ability for them to join zoom events and the AGM or even be on the committee, then it was not thought that CG had anything else needing addressing on this issue. JH had proposed a voice over / video of what we offer. All our events on zoom are free – charging is against the ethos of using events to attract new members, and would be expensive to implement anyway. The whole initiative maybe just revenue driven by RPS Bristol?

Routine Updates

Finances (submitted by separate email by AC)

Records for my report only cover the period up to 31st October 2023. The November figures are expected in the next week. At 31st October our bank balance was £10,789, but since then we have paid a further £1,158 with a claim outstanding of £58. With no income this would leave us with a balance of £9573. However, we will have some income during the month, though how much is hard to judge as the chaos over last year's figures makes estimating difficult. We can assume that the income will be in the region of £300, so with some rounding I expect that our balance will be in the region of £9875. It will be a significant task to unscramble the accounts for the AGM and this will depend on the final balances being available to me before 31st January as I will be in India in February (5th to 29th inclusive).

Events – good attendances recently. Pecha Kucha numbers uncertain. Several Committee members volunteered to give presentations if needed to get the concept off the ground. Please contact MK.

Journals – Concept due in February – Nick looking for contributions. A Broadcast was sent out last week. Magazine – nothing to report.

Web / SM. No new offers to help with SM. Nothing new of note on the website.

Portfolio – nothing to report

Regions

Contemporary North (PR)

We continue to be successful with good attendances at every meeting., especially the Zoom ones.

We average about 15 members at face-to-face ones, more on Zoom.

Our recent Issuu publication on our Away Day has been well-received, receiving congratulations from CG members around the country.

We're planning a "proper" book in 2024 on the four elements which will give us a huge scope.

I've booked all our meetings for 2024, five at Clements Hall and have noted five on Zoom to members.

Central (SH)

The Central Contemporary and Documentary group continue to meet once a month via Zoom, with several new members joining us in recent months thanks to the information posted on the RPS website. We had an in-person meet-up at Avoncroft Buildings Museum at the end of September, and are currently planning a Birmingham photography walk for May 2024. Our second group book is currently at the layout stage, with 9 members contributing work on the theme of 'On Reflection'.

Eastern (TO)

The East Anglian group continues to meet via Zoom. Attendance has been low over past few months due in part to illness of members and other reasons. We decided to have a sabbatical during December and will reconvene in the first week of January 2024.

Our current theme "We are here because you were there" continues with members spending most of the last few meetings discussing their individual approaches to interpreting the statement. We are still aiming for an Easter exhibition on-line.

Tim pulled off a membership report that I placed in our Teams folder, so I'll review the members for this Region once we have another one to compare against before chasing apparent disappearing members. To comply with GDPR, I only review the data whilst logged into the Teams domain via the Web. If any of you want to check things out.

North West (AC)

Since the last committee meeting the NW group has had two Zoom meetings with the topics being: October - The Way We Live Now
December - The Cost Of Living Five people attended each meeting and shared images. At our December meeting we decided to change our meeting day to Wednesdays unless specific events were to be covered and to alternate face to face and Zoom meetings throughout 2024. Our plan next year involves meetings in • Samlesbury (near Preston) to share images and prints • Birkenhead to include an exhibition • Greenfield (Saddleworth) for the Whit Friday Marches • Kendal • Leeds - a city walk and possible meet with Yorkshire • Lancaster - coinciding with Light Up Lancaster I am hoping that we can engage with more members and I'll send our programme to the webmaster for publication.

AOB

MemCom

TO cannot make the next meeting which is face to face in Bristol, on either 4 or 10 February, and asked if anyone could stand in for him. SG will consider dependent on date. Any others contact TO.

Thanks, Happy Xmas and 2024 to all !!

Future Meetings

Committee meetings on rotating M/Tu/Wed/Thu every two months, second week. 19.00hrs for one hour.

Tuesday 13th February 2024

Wednesday 10th April 2024 and AGM

Thursday 13th June 2024

Monday 12th August 2024
Tuesday 8th October 2024
Wednesday 11th December 2024