



Saturday 25 September 2021 at 1:30 pm  
Zoom

**Hon Officers and Elected Members present:** Lucy Johnston, Haleh Moravej, Susan North, Helen Persson, Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas, Danielle Sprecher, Philip Warren, Chris Wright, Hannah Wroe

**Appointed Officers present:** Clare Bowyer, Louise Chapman, Beth Evans, Alexandra Kim, Chris Stevens, Amy Wilson

### Minutes

1. Apologies received: Joanna Jarvis, Babette Radclyffe-Thomas, Janet Wood, Ben Whyman
2. Welcome to our new elected members, Haleh and Helen and introductions to the committee.
3. Minutes of the meeting of the previous meeting 15 May 2021 and any further actions. **6Ci blog on EH grant has not been posted yet.**
4. Chairman's report and review of health and safety procedures
  - a. The Costume Society has no employees or premises, so we need only verify the health & safety policies of the places where we hold events.
  - b. It was proposed that the Programme subcommittee have a checklist so that we can document that we have verified the venue's H&S policy.
  - c. **PW will redraft the H&S policy and recirculate for January meeting.**
5. Treasurer's Report and review of funding for Grants and Awards
  - a. No questions arose and G&A funding discussed below.
6. Programme sub-committee – report from meeting 22 September 2021
  - a. CB reported progress on Menswear year, which includes a weekend April/May in Leeds, digital events, conference in autumn finalising dates, visit to Westminster with Danielle, visits to the V&A and Manchester exhibitions.
  - b. **CB and NRT are devising a publicity form for recording details of upcoming events for website & social media.**
7. 2021 Conference survey results
  - a. The results, provided free, were based only on a percentage of responses; there is a fee for a complete summary.
  - b. 149 tickets were sold; average age was lower than it was in 2019; 62% of attendees were new to a Cos Soc conference; the gender balance is predominantly female; attendees lived as far away as Wellington New Zealand; everyone loved the goody-bag – the most popular page was the grants page, 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular was cocktails; most found out about conference from the website, and then via social media (although the latter may have first directed people to the website); 90% were satisfied or very satisfied; 47% said it exceeded and 47% said it met expectations; 87.5% thought it good value; 80% likely to attend in 2022.
  - c. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took part and made the conference such a success.
8. Communications sub-committee

## Costume Society Executive Committee Reports

- a. The first priorities have been to engage with members, highlight the work of members, promote the mission of the Costume Society, especially grants & awards
  - b. We are using analytics to get information on how visitors to the website engage with it and build on this.
  - c. Our Social Media Editor & Ambassador Manager, Vicky, is stepping down – many thanks to her for all her hard work for the Costume Society.
  - d. We are recruiting a new Social Media Editor & Ambassador Manager and a new Blog Editor
  - e. We are engaging a new team Ambassadors and want them to connect more closely with Cos Soc events, grants & awards, and to highlight these in the Cos Soc social media
  - f. The new Members' magazine will be launched later this year.
  - g. Internal communications are the next focus of the Comms subcommittee.
  - h. AW asked if we could have an Ambassador involved in the 2022 conference. NRT will be meeting with CB, VH and new Ambassadors to discuss this.
9. Grants & awards sub-committee
- a. Elizabeth Hammond Grant
    - i. PW recommended a separate discussion between Comms and G&A subcommittees to address JW's concerns regarding the EH Grant. Traditional and social media methods may not work for publicising these and there may be other museum networks that we might pursue.
    - ii. PW: we need to emphasise how EH and MWEH grants benefit museums as well as the students.
  - b. The Elizabeth Hammond award is governed with two other awards named after their benefactors, Kathy Callow and Daphne Bullard, by a charity with members of the families of the donors and other consultants with museum backgrounds. Kathy Callow's family would now like to spend the capital of her grant to benefit museums struggling with the post-pandemic economy. Cos Soc is considering taking back the administration the Elizabeth Hammond grant. This leaves the Daphne Bullard award which doesn't have a board with the expertise to administer it.
    - i. **Vote to bring the EH administration back to the Costume Society: all agreed, no abstentions, no objections**
    - ii. **Vote to discuss bringing the DB administration to the Cos Soc. The capital and grant would come to us. Family member, John Bullard, is keen to extend grant from conservation to interpretation, photography, digital, etc so there is the opportunity to change the grant. Cos Soc need to determine what financial steps are required; we would need another officer to administer it. All agreed that we should pursue this, no abstentions, no objections**
  - c. PoF and PoP awards were a huge success this year, with more applications from students at more institutions; the film was very well received.
    - i. There has been a positive response to the menswear theme
    - ii. Michele is recommending an expert on menswear to judge 2022
    - iii. We hope that Michele will come back after 2022, but Cos Soc acknowledges that judging is a huge commitment. JJ and LC have discussed succession planning and have suggestions for future judges
    - iv. Many thanks to Ben, Janet, Joanna, Louise and Lucy.

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- d. CW proposed that the Exec discuss spending the capital of our grants & awards, instead of just the interest, which has been diminishing with the continuing fall in interest rates. We need to make the best use of our funds when the interest is not enough.
  - i. **Vote for CW to have a conversation with financial managers: all in favour, no abstentions, no objections**
  - ii. Some suggestions for using these funds included: supporting students of fashion design and history; supporting fashion design internships, museum decolonising programmes, supporting social enterprises linked to textiles, clothing, etc.
  - iii. This would be a huge commitment, needing very rigorous assessment, ethical considerations, partnering with reliable external institutions.
  - iv. **Send CW suggestions about areas, organisations we might support, for further discussion at January meeting.**

### 10. Publications sub-committee

- a. AK and CS have some menswear articles for Spring 2022 and are happy to receive more for Autumn issue, if members have or know someone with something on menswear ready (or almost) to go. The deadline is Xmas 2021.
- b. Interesting papers arising from conference will appear later.
- c. **AK and CS to send NRT a brief for social media.**

### 11. Membership report:

- a. Welcome to 78 new members; membership is 690 as of today.
  - i. However, BE has no spare journals to send out to recent joiners. It was decided to buy more copies at the same price we regularly pay, for the new members. **BE, CS and AK to take forward to EUP. If there are additional financial considerations, they will get in touch with CW. It was agreed to order some extra copies of Magazine as well.**
  - ii. Should we have an annual cut-off date for joining? I.e: 'Members joining after 1 November will have their payment applied for the following membership year'. **All agreed.**
- b. Should Cos Soc offer a Pdf-access-only (to journal and newsletter?) type of membership? If so, what should this cost?
  - i. CW noted that we have a contract with EUP for 600 copies. If too many members switched to digital, this could prove difficult for our relationship with EUP.

### 12. New admin assistant role

- a. HW has drafted job description
  - i. who would administer this person?
  - ii. We need to map the activities in terms of deadlines, so they don't all happen at once.
  - iii. **Send comments on draft to Hannah.**

### 13. AOB

- a. Question about whether AGM was quorate. As of 27/9 at 10:30 am, we have 100 returns, which is more than 10% of 500 UK members.
- b. NRT requested Exec members follow Cos Soc on social media and share notices
- c. on future meetings, PW was reluctant to suggest this January meeting be physical, but suggested May 2022. It was agreed that Sept and May meetings be physical, at either LCF or British School of Fashion

## Costume Society Executive Committee Reports

- d. LJ & NRT to run a doodle-poll regarding the best time for the digital meetings.

### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

22 January 2022 - digital

7 May 2022 – location to be confirmed

AGM - July 2022, exact date tbc

24 September 2022 – location to be confirmed