

United Kingdom Association of Gestalt Practitioners 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2017 UKAGP Annual General Meeting took place at UKAGP National Conference 2017, De Vere Wokefield Estate Executive Centre, Executive Meeting Room, Sunday 2nd July 2017, 1130-1230.

Present: Adamson Sarah; Aiolfi Kai; Anderson Lynda; Appel-Opper Julianne; Ashcroft Dinah; Bailey James; Barnett Vivienne; Bartram Asherson; Beauchamp Liz; Best Melinda; Bolton Heather; Boyle Danny; Capps Martin; Carrette Tim; Claird Emily; Clare Alison; Clayton Jen; Colls Jenny; Davies Sara; Duff Vienna; Dukes Christine; Duncan Sarah; Eugenio Vicky; Fellows Ed; Finar Ruth; Flax Emma; Flint Jane; Gillespe John; Gilligan Toni; Graham Judy; Gray Megan; Greenway Ian; Gunn Janet; Gwilt Dawn; Hamerska Lenka; Hampton Joan; Harris Belinda; Hodgson Di; Holford Hilary; Holloway Liz; Jaynes Eddie; Kaye Lynne; Kellett Rachael; Kincel Adam; Kishi Sachiko; Lee Bill; Lee Danielle; Lichtenstern Jacqui; Logan Ailsa; London Rod; Martin Julia; Nightingale Ruth; O'Malley Chris; Osborne Lynda; Ovens Melanie; Page Faye; Parlett Malcolm; Pidgeon Hugh; Porter Danny; Riordan Jane; Sidhu Raksha; Smith Adam; Spiers Rupert; Stevens Christine; Taylor Francis; Thomas Helen; Thomas Mark; Tutton Felicity; Wakelin Katy; Wilson Heather; Wright Julia; Zack Linda.

Ref: AGM17	
1	Welcome: Jacqui Lichtenstern (chair) welcomed the members to the AGM and laid out the agenda and nominations process.
2	Apologies: There were no apologies.
3	Minutes of 2016 AGM: The Minutes of the 2016 UKAGP AGM were agreed and signed by the UKAGP Chair, Jacqui Lichtenstern: Proposer Toni Gilligan; seconded by Malcolm Parlett Matters Arising: AS stated that all matters arising from the 2016 AGM minutes were addressed on the agenda with the exception of the following:
3.1	UKAGP Policies: Adam Smith gave an update on the continued development of UKAGP policies together with plans to link with the AAGT to draw on their conflict resolution policy. Action: AS to continue to develop UKAGP policies with OC, membership and wider gestalt community support.

3.2	<p>Special Interest Groups:</p> <p>Members were reminded that volunteers were needed for a range of Special Interest groups, and encouraged to sign up at the list at the end of the meeting, or to get in touch with a OC member for more details.</p>
3.3	<p>EAGT membership:</p> <p>The Organising Committee continues to explore ways to collaborate with the EAGT in response to membership enquiries at the 2015/2016 AGM around ease of access to EAGT/EAP.</p> <p>It is possible to apply for an ECP as a direct award through a EAPTI accredited training institutes (Metanoia in the UK) , or through a NAO. The UKCP is a ECP NAO and NUO for the ECP award.</p> <p>We have learned a lot from the process, the exploration, introduction of the website and the renewal process. We still have more to do and to be discussed with you as members, hopefully in established special interest groups before we can come back to you fully on this issue.</p> <p>Action: Progress will be reported at the next AGM and via the UKAGP newsletter (BH).</p>
4	<p>2016 UKAGP Financial Report</p> <p>Ruth Nightingale (UKAGP finance officer) presented the UKAGP finance report and the official accounts. The full version of the accounts were circulated to members with AGM documentation prior to the meeting, and are available on the UKAGP website. The key points presented are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks were expressed to the BGJ who funded the 2017 conference deposit with a loan to the UKAGP which will be repaid following the conference. • The major expenses this year have been for the new website and the administrator. • The UKAGP are covering their expenses but rely heavily on conference and membership fee income in order to be financially sustainable • Cash flow figures were presented to the membership with approximately £16000 in the bank following the conference, this will need to see us through the next couple of years (the one day conference that alternates with the larger conference does not generate much income typically) • Membership numbers currently 300 - 350. At least half are trainees and we only get £10 for their membership.
5	<p>Approval of UKAGP accounts:</p> <p>The UKAGP accounts were approved by the AGM: proposed by Martin Capps; and seconded by Chris O'Malley.</p>
6	<p>Report from the Chair</p> <p>Jacqui Lichtenstern presented her report to the meeting pointing out that it was available both on the UKAGP website and as part of the papers made available for the AGM. JL reflected over the experience of the last 4 years as Chair and what the Organising Committee (OC) has been busy with noting how challenging it is for a group of volunteers to organise a national organisation and how she appreciated</p>

that as Gestaltists we know the importance of dialogue, experimentation, creativity and recognition of the wider field and have made space for all of these.

Whilst 2016 to 2017 has been a year of political upheavals in the UK and beyond, it has been a relatively calm and productive time for the Organising Committee (OC) and UKAGP. The OC has developed into a cohesive working team since 2013 when there was a large changeover, and we have managed to stagger the timing of arrivals and departures to support a smoother running and have experimented creatively with how and when we meet. I would like to thank all eight members of the OC for their time energy and support, and also for those who contribute preparing and cooking our delicious lunches at our meetings.

Some key points noted by AGM note takers are as follows:

- The committee continues to improve communications and processes. GSuite now being used effectively as a virtual office - real time, offering continuity and archive.
- Committee members having monthly check-ins via Zoom which offers more support for committee members and continuity between committee meetings.
- There has been considerable activity as an impact of our website upgrade in relation to reestablishing memberships: changes from Paypal to website based payment; requiring members to update their profiles; checking and approving accreditation status as documents are submitted online; keeping track of members who have not renewed membership after automatic Paypal process cancelled; responding to queries from members about website and membership status.
- A new voluntary role of website manager has been created in order to support the work of the committee.
- An opinion piece concerning joint membership with the EAGT received positive feedback and support from members. JL reported how she read some excerpts to the EAGT General Board in March 2017, requesting that they consider creating a feasible Joint Membership contract with the UKAGP in support of strengthening connections after the referendum. This was met with overwhelming support and led to a passionate and heartfelt energetic discussion with many members sharing their views and experiences from their own country's experiences and there was a commitment to feed this directly into the EAGT Strategic Policy Plan.
- We are currently in discussion with the Executive Committee about the practicalities of setting up a Joint Membership Contract as a more direct and economical way for UKAGP members to get individual membership with EAGT.
- NOGT Compliance: During the process of preparing for reaccreditation with EAGT, we acknowledged that we award Full Membership to those accredited with a professional organisation listed in the Appendix of our Constitution, and that not all of these meet the EAGT criteria for Full Membership. Therefore we need to review our membership categories and the process by which we ensure our full members meet the EAGT criteria.
- UKAGP administrator Jen Clayton is leaving this summer, and the OC will be recruiting a new administrator.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Gestalt Voices - a journal for new gestalt writers has been launched following the idea being raised at a UKAGP trainee community day. John Gillespie was thanked for his work in founding the journal.
7	<p>The Organising Committee Election Process</p> <p>Jl presented the proposal for a change to the constitution in order to clarify the process by which the various committee roles are ascribed to UKAGP members elected to serve on the Organising Committee, along with a proposal to follow the EAGT model by voting a year in advance for the role of Chair. The person elected will take on the role of Vice Chair elected by the OC or by the membership.</p> <p>In order to put these processes into practice the choices for changes to the UKAGP Constitution (01.07.2016) were put to the AGM (see section below) and the opportunity to discuss the choices for voting on later in the meeting when further Constitutional changes are discussed.</p>
8	<p>Matters arising from Updates and Reports - Discussion Space</p> <p>The following is a summary of the key discussion points taken by our note takers. The discussion was an important part of the process for clarifying and supporting the decisions made by the AGM of UKAGP members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of UKAGP chair was discussed and clarified by the membership, prior to the appointment of a new chair, with members raising issues around the remit of the role and the process of nomination/electing a new chair. • Toni Gilligan said it would be helpful to clarify the nature of the role Is the role of chair simply administration and logistics, or guiding the vision of the organisation? If the second, do we need a more formal election process similar to AAGT president? • Adam Kincel drew on his experiences of AAGT and noted that this way of doing things took complex logistics and could be an emotionally tough process and spoke in favour of UKAGP committee choosing the most appropriate person for the role. • Malcolm Parlett agreed with A.K.s view - good sense in that the OC will know the gaps of the organisation and UKAGP does not have a lot of people stepping forward for the role, why complicate the process? He noted that there are some key elements to what the chair has to do e.g. have presence, run a meeting. • Di Hodgson asked what happens constitutionally if we end up with no Chair? What is plan B? Clare Asherson-Bartram recalled that that had happened and the role of Chair 'roved' and it worked. • Jen Clayton (current administrator) highlighted the need for a particular skill set and looking at the gaps in the OC. The Chair needs to have skill with logistics/operational stuff as well as vision, thus the Chair needed to be OC elected. • Christine Stephens clarified: are we saying that the Chair has to come from the OC itself? Does this preclude bringing someone in? The Chair does have to be from the OC. If we run out of possibilities from the OC (bearing in mind constitutionally we can only have 9 people on the committee), we can co-opt someone on as Chair.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C A-B asked if someone is co-opted for a specific task/role or simply as committee member. The Chair (JL) said historically the committee membership was more institution based (ensuring representation) but now we are more focused on skills and energy - not everyone has the skills etc to be Finance Officer or Secretary.
9	<p>Proposed Amendments to the UKAGP Constitution</p> <p>AS stated that the proposed changes to the UKAGP Constitution have been suggested by the work of the UKAGP Organising Committee in the year 2016/17 and presented as papers at this AGM. AS asked the AGM to consider and vote on the following proposals, requesting vote counters from the floor to assist with the process: Malcolm Parlett and Clare Asherson-Bartram volunteered to be vote counters.</p> <p>NB changed/additional text is highlighted below</p>
9.1	<p>1: The AGM gives the Organising Committees (OC) the authority to act. The proposed change in text reflects the logic of this practice in holding three OC meetings between AGMs rather than calendar years.</p> <p><u>Current Text:</u></p> <p>6. The Organising Committee</p> <p>The Association shall be managed by elected members who represent the Association on an Organising Committee which should meet at least three times each calendar year.</p> <p><u>Proposed Text:</u></p> <p>6. The Organising Committee</p> <p>The Association shall be managed by elected members who represent the Association on an Organising Committee which should meet at least three times a year between each Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Discussion: It was clarified that the maximum period allowed between UKAGP AGMs is 1 year.</p> <p>This amendment was proposed by Jacqui Lichtenstern , seconded by Adam Smith and approved by the AGM (voting record: For 66 Against 0 Abstain 0)</p>
9.2	<p>1: The following additional paragraph (d) to the constitution is designed to clarify procedure and to support a successional model similar to the AAGT and EAGT.</p> <p><u>Current Text:</u></p> <p>6.2 Elections</p> <p>a) Elections take place annually and members are elected for a term of three years, after which they must stand for reelection.</p> <p>b) Members are eligible for a second term for a period of one, two or three years, after which they must stand down and not offer themselves for election for a further three years.</p> <p>c) Should a vacancy on the Committee arise for any reason the Committee may coopt a Full or Associate Member</p> <p><u>Proposed Additional Text to section 6.2:</u></p>

	<p>d1) <i>The role for Chair will be voted for <u>by the OC</u> one year before the current Chair stands down and the person elected will take on the role of Vice Chair.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p>d2) <i>The role for Chair will be voted for <u>by the membership</u> one year before the current Chair stands down and the person elected will take on the role of Vice Chair.</i></p> <p>D1 was proposed by Jacqui Lichtenstern, seconded by Adam Smith and approved by the AGM (voting record: For d1 = 53, for d2 = 8, Against both = 0 Abstain = 2)</p>
9.3	ACTION: AS to update the UKAGP Constitution with approved changes (Sept 2017)
10	<p>UKAGP Committee/ Honorary Treasurer Nominations & Elections</p> <p>Four Committee positions are available given four OC members have come to the end of their current tenures. Ruth Nightingale and Jacqui Lichtenstern are leaving the committee and two members are standing for re-election: Liz Beauchamp and Rachael Kellett . Julia Martin had been nominated as a new committee member</p> <p>Toni Gillian asked if we would get introductions from nominated candidates, this is not part of the usual process and was decided against.</p> <p>Re-election of Liz Beauchamp: for 65 against 0 abstentions 0</p> <p>Re-election of Rachael Kellett: for 64 against 0 abstentions 1</p> <p>Election of Julia Martin: for 64 against 0 abstentions 1</p> <p>All were voted in and welcomed / thanked by the membership.</p>
11	<p>Changes, Hellos & Goodbyes</p> <p>Belinda Harris thanked Jacqui Lichtenstern, Ruth Nightingale and Jen Clayton for their hard work for UKAGP</p> <p>Sylvia Parry was formally welcomed to the committee as the new UKAGP website manager.</p> <p>The AGM welcomed Belinda Harris as new UKAGP chair.</p>
12	AOB: No other business was raised.
13	<p>Date and details of the next AGM</p> <p>The next community day and AGM date will be announced following the first meeting of the new organising committee via the website and Newsletter.</p> <p>Action: BH</p>