



INTRODUCTION

Any Other Business has been created over the space of a decade, a time measured through drawings made during the course of one committee meeting after another. These drawings have been brought together to make a hybrid form of book, positioned somewhere between a sketchbook, a chronicle and an autobiography.

Committee meetings have universal conventions, although there are cultural variations in practice across the world including gender differentials. Operating in a particular register, there are precise rules of engagement. Committees are official, formal, agenda and outcome driven. Reasoned, courteous debate in sequential progression through the course of an agenda is the norm. However committee meetings also offer opportunities for members to adopt the secrecy and subversion of benign disengagement should they drift between attention active and attention deficit behaviour. Attention deficiency in this context is susceptible to a signal from elsewhere. It offers a unique creative potential for drawing.

Apart from those engaged in chairing, clerking or those required to (or wish to) be lead contributors throughout the duration of a meeting, the other committee members possess a generally unacknowledged amount of freedom to switch in and out of the proceedings. A typical committee member is very likely to have the relevant papers to hand and also a pen in hand. These combine together to facilitate the making of corrections, annotations and notes in the margins (and beyond) for future reference. These might include memoranda to the self of any actions that need to be carried out by a specified time. Writing during a committee meeting feels like work. It also confers a comforting sense of control in circumstances that, for some of us, induce a sense of uncertainty, inadequacy or irrelevancy.

