

DRAMA 13

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 11th April 2017, 7.00pm at the New Life Baptist Church Hall, Kings Heath

1. Apologies

Apologies (from the current committee): Ruth Donnelly

Ruth also communicated her intention to resign from the committee due to her recently announced pregnancy.

Present:

Committee:

John Dowell, Joy Rodgers, Steve Knowles, Patricia Howarth, Matthew Gough, Annette Gough, Bernadette O'Brien, Jim Bell

Other members of the group present for all or part of the meeting: Joan Hallmark, Ron Hallmark, Sarah Weir, Martyn Reeve

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 12th April 2016

- No comments raised, minutes accepted

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

- None – covered by agenda

4. Chairman's report

The Chairman's report is attached as Appendix A.

Comments on the report:

- Some discussion took place on the final social event of 2016, held Tuesday 13th December, noted in section c) of the Chairman's report.
 - Matthew felt that the format of the evening may have 'ran its course' and also the legacy of it was not familiar to newer members of the group. He suggested that in future we hold a normal evening but the final half is given over to a social gathering.
 - Suggested that in future the whole group is involved in deciding the framework of the evening and defining the agenda.
- Vote of acceptance on report:
 - Proposed by Patricia
 - Seconded by Bernadette
 - Vote: Accepted by all

5. Treasurer's Report

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Joy circulated summary details of the group's financial position to those in attendance at the meeting and provided a verbal overview also.

- Some points of note:
 - From the positive financial position presented by Joy it was agreed that some funds could be used for new technical equipment.
 - Noted cost of the hall hire and especially heating. Propose to make more use of smaller rooms when access to the stage is not required.
- Vote of acceptance on report:
 - Proposer by Steve
 - Secunder by Annette
 - Vote: Accepted by all

6. Election of Officers and Committee members

- Present officers:
 - Chairman: John Dowell
 - Treasurer: Joy Rodgers
 - Secretary: Steve Knowles
- Present members:
 - Annette Gough, Matthew Gough, Patricia Howarth, Bernadette O'Brien, Jim Bell, Ruth Donnelly
- Nominations received – officers:
 - Chairman: John Dowell (standing)
 - Treasurer: Joy Rodgers (standing)
 - Secretary: Steve Knowles (standing)
- Nominations received – members
 - Standing members: Annette Gough, Matthew Gough, Patricia Howarth, Bernadette Obrien, Jim Bell
- No new nominations were received.
- As indicated above, all members of the current committee wish to stand again, with the exception of Ruth who is standing down.
- Vote on accepting block nominations for all existing members standing:
 - Proposer by Sarah Weir
 - Secunder by Martyn Reeve
 - Vote: Accepted by all

7. Any other notified business

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- No items for any other business were received.
- No other items discussed

Meeting closed at 19:30.

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Appendix A – Chairman’s report

Drama 13 AGM 11th April 2017

Chairman’s Report

a) Drama activity during the year April 2016 - April 2017

We began the acting year with a Murder Mystery Evening on 16th July in the Masonic Hall, which had already been planned at the last AGM. It had a 1940s theme and was directed by Patricia, with Matthew looking after the setting and decorating of the Hall. It was highly successful and thoroughly enjoyed. It was also a good venue for acoustics and lighting. The use of a “floating seat” in the middle of each dining table was considered better than having a seats at the end of the tables, in terms of communication. Another good feature was having songs sung by June Tyler, with piano accompaniment.

The original plan at the time of the last AGM was to have a three-act play in late September, followed by a Pantomime near Christmas. There was reluctance within the group to tackle any of the three-act plays that were considered. Instead, we decided to put on two one-act plays, which were performed on 17th-19th November, having also rejected the idea of a mixed “Evening of Entertainment”. The plays turned out to be highly successful, and received excellent write-ups in the January “Curtain Call”. They were “Last Tango in Little Grimley” by David Tristram, directed by Patricia and “Nobody Famous” by D M Larson, directed by Joy. A bad feature was the low ticket sales, something to be avoided in the future. The successful performances, coupled with the good criticism has led us to think about making an entry to the “BFAME” festival next year (we were too late this year!).

We were invited by Bromsgrove All Saints Church to put on a Murder Mystery in the Church Hall, rather than the Church, on January 28th. This was quite a different experience from the Church as the Hall was brightly lit, and most of the audience arrived very early, before we were all ready. However, it seemed to be well received. Nick Packham performed for the first time in what was a slightly modified version of our earlier production. Edna (All Saints) suggested that it would be useful to have a synopsis of the plot on each table.

Meanwhile the group chose to put on “The Darkling Plain”, proposed by Jim Bell, to be performed on 11th-13th May, which is in the final stages of preparation and rehearsal, and takes us into the next “Drama 13” year. Some members will be appearing for the first time.

b) Stage development, equipment storage, and outreach

We have benefitted from the improvements to stage access from recent work on the steps. Work has continued on equipment storage both in our back-stage room and at the Friends Meeting House. A water leak into the back-stage room was located and dealt with. Additional shelving was put up at the Friends Meeting House but there is still too much being stored there. Work being done by Charlotte Robinson,

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assisted by Beth on cleaning up and systematising the electrical cabling has been noticeable. This extends to the lighting, where everything usable has been identified. In fact, together with Steve, Charlotte has installed the lights for the show over last week-end and set many of them.

In late November 2016 Charlotte proposed improving the public address system in the Church Hall for the benefit of all users, and had a discussion with Mike Locket. This led to a meeting between members of the Church and Drama 13 Committee members on February 21st at which we discussed the development of common features more generally. We identified Steve as our representative at future meetings. The next will be on 23rd May 2017.

Finally, a big thank you to Steve and others who have got Drama 13 well presented on the Web.

c) Other functions and fund raising activity

Quiz nights on 16th April 2016 and 21st January 2017 at the Windermere Club were well attended and included a very popular Tombola organised by Patricia. Matthew and friends devised the questions and both occasions were enjoyed by all. It is now the practise to reimburse people who have provided food, up to the admission ticket price, which is currently £5. A Social Evening, intended for members, patrons and friends, held on Tuesday 13th December was not very well attended, but everyone acknowledged the contributions that Patricia and Matthew had made in preparing the evening. An alternative venue to the Church Hall was mentioned, but perhaps more encouragement could be given to people who might attend at the current venue. Nevertheless, we made a contribution of £40 the Charity "CRISIS" from "Christmas Card" donations made at the event.

d) Plans for the future

As everyone is aware, we are fully engaged in "The Darkling Plain", directed by Jim and Matthew, to be performed on 11th-13th May. Advertising and selling tickets are currently priorities. We have booked the Windermere Club for a Quiz Night on Saturday July 15th. Also, following popular opinion within the group, we have booked the Hall for 30th November and the 1st and 2nd December with the intention of putting on a "Pantomime". Ideas are still open for this, but the Committee has suggested looking at "Dame Dizzy's Magic Ingredient" by Carol Boyd and Michelle Farrugia as a starting point, which might be modified or upgraded.

I would like to end by expressing a special thank you to all the people who have joined the group recently, both on the acting and technical side. This has certainly broadened our scope and encouraged the existing members to believe that we have an exciting future. Thanks also to Ron and Joan Hallmark who provide us with refreshments each week, and to former members who lend a hand whenever we put on a show.

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John Dowell 11-4-2017