

## **DITCHLING PLAYERS**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Held at Ditchling Village Hall**

#### **Apologies**

Nan Crofton, Judy Walker, Ian Clayton, Mike Trayler, David Tattersell, Sue Blair-Fish, Peter Kirk, Becky Kirk, Alec Gaskin, Pam Gaskin, Catherine Robinson and Roy Burman.

#### **Present**

Sarah Trayler, Liz Gee, Mike Hanna, Neil Iosson, Penelope Bennett, Sara Fisher, James Olsworth-Peter, Diane Burman, Bill Colbourne, Christine Colbourne, Jill Hewer, Maureen Devereaux, Sue Hanna and John Merrett.

#### **Minutes of Last Year's AGM**

It was reported at last year's meeting that Jill Hewer was interested in co-producing a play in 2019. Jill pointed out that this should have read 2020. With this amendment noted the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**Action SH**

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Penelope Bennett handed out the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 signed by the auditor Dick Marshall. Penelope explained that advertising had been heavy this year as we have advertised in the Ditchling Village booklet and we have also purchased a banner and T shirts all of which will be used for some years. Basically we are in quite a good position at the moment.

James Olsworth-Peter raised a query about the marked difference in the hire cost of premises comparing 2018/19 to 2017/18. Penelope will look into this. Jill Hewer said that it would be very interesting to know how much each of the productions made. It was agreed that this could be provided. Penelope ran through the various figures and gave congratulations to Sara Fisher for her hard work on the Noel Coward events. We need to agree an auditor for next year; John Merrett proposed Dick Marshall and this was seconded by Sarah Trayler.

**Action PB**

Penelope then asked permission of the members present to contravene Section 10 of the Revised Rules of the Society. She explained that she had submitted an on line request for internet banking to HSBC on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. This was acknowledged by the bank on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and a hard copy signed by Penelope and the Chairman was submitted on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

The bank have refused the authorization as the Ditchling Players' Rules state that two approved signatories are required and they need a copy of our Rules which must include a clause for the power of delegation to one person.

The members, following some discussion concerning the maximum spend per day, agreed that the Treasurer could act independently. It was agreed that the following wording be added under section 9:-

With regard to On Line (Internet) Banking and Telephone Banking, the Treasurer may act independently with a maximum spend per day of £500 (five hundred pounds sterling).

Agreement to the wording as above was proposed by Neil Iosson and seconded by Sarah Trayler. Everyone was in favour.

**Action PB**

Neil Iosson suggested the bank be asked to put alerts on the account for any unusual transactions and this was agreed.

**Action PB**

### **To Receive and Adopt the Audited Accounts**

This was proposed by James Olsworth-Peter and seconded by Liz Gee. Everyone was in favour.

### **Secretary's Report**

Sue Hanna expressed the Players' delight when Martha Kearney agreed to become one of our patrons earlier this year explaining that Martha herself was very keen to come back to her roots. She went on to discuss how the Social Committee worked, arranging play readings, theatre visits, social gatherings and the Christmas dinner and asked for any suggestions for anything the members would like us to organize.

Membership stands at 51 at the moment. We also have a lot of subscribers and it would of course be very nice if they joined. We need to encourage new members and any thoughts on how we do so would be very welcome.

Sue went on to say that Ian Clayton our long time President, Set Designer, Set Builder, ex Chairman, Actor and longest serving member of the Players is 90 this summer.

She explained how he first got involved and the work he has done for us over the years mentioning particularly the goose which flew across the stage during the Mother Goose pantomime flapping its wings and the space rocket which rose from the stage floor with a great roar towards the ceiling. He can't be with us tonight but we all wish Ian a very happy birthday.

### **Chairman's Report**

Diane Burman said that 2018/19 had been a very successful year with two great productions, 'And Then There Were None' directed by Susie D'Arcy in November 2018 and

'How The Other Half Loves' directed by Penelope Bennett in May 2019. She thanked all the backstage crew, wardrobe and those responsible for the sets for all their hard work.

The online ticket system is proving very popular. Tickets can still be bought from the Larder although this venue may change shortly as they are closing. We had a tidy up of our loft and wardrobe earlier in the year.

Victoria Ingham is the new Chairman of the Ditchling Village Hall Committee and there is also a new Booking Secretary. Diane had hoped to move our production dates to the last week in May and November but has not been able to do so. The hoped for new chairs have been put off for the time being as the Committee has given priority to renew the floor and also to replace the rotten staircases.

Diane advised that the next play is 'Private Lives' by Noel Coward directed by Sara Fisher. The auditions will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August and the performance dates are the 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November. She went on to say that we need directors for next year and for 2021. We have also been asked by the Ditchling Society to put on a pantomime to involve the whole community. Diane ended her report by listing all the various activities and skills needed to put on a play and the benefits of being a member.

#### **To Confirm in Office the President and Vice Presidents**

The President is Ian Clayton and the Vice Presidents are David Tattersell, Sue Hanna and Sonia Stock. Ian was proposed by John Merrett and seconded by Penelope Bennett and David, Sue and Sonia were proposed by Jill Hower and seconded by Maureen Devereaux.

#### **To Elect Chairman, other Officers and Members of the Committee**

Sue Hanna proposed that Diane Burman continue as Chairman and this was seconded by Penelope Bennett.

Craig Cheek has been put forward as a new member of the committee and this was proposed by Neil Iosson and seconded by James Olsworth-Peter.

Sue Hanna was proposed to continue as Secretary by Maureen Devereaux and seconded by Mike Hanna. Penelope Bennett was proposed to continue as Treasurer by Sarah Trayler and seconded by Diane Burman.

The rest of the committee – David Tattersell, Sara Fisher, Neil Iosson and John Merrett were proposed en bloc by Sarah Trayler and seconded by Maureen Devereaux.

#### **Any Other Business**

Sarah Trayler asked about the current situation regarding an incident that happened last year. John Merrett explained the circumstances to the members present and stated that the claim is being handled by our Insurers.

Penelope Bennett said that we have purchased hard hats, goggles, ear defenders and gloves for the use of everyone and that she would be working closely with the director of future plays to ensure Health and Safety Rules were followed.

James Olsworth-Peter mentioned the chairs and his concern that if there was a fire and the audience could not get out due to the fact that we could not unlock the chairs, what would be our responsibility? It would be the responsibility of the hall.

Sarah Trayler asked whether the hall had spent too much money, bearing in mind that an office has been created and a gazebo built. Diane Burman suggested that we had automatic lighting in the car park but it was pointed out that the car park was the property of the Council. She went on to explain what the T shirts look like and when they will be worn.

Jill Hewer will direct next Autumn's production but needs a co director. Carolyn Chinn is considering directing. Anyone with ideas about directors is welcome to contact Diane.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm