

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DUNSTABLE MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019 AT THE LUBYA HALL
MANCHESTER PLACE, DUNSTABLE
COMMENCING AT 7.45PM

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Ellie Garrett, Naomi Starr, Debbie Dunstan, Gail Muscella, Alex Wheeler, Jen Adams.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes from the last AGM were circulated before the meeting.

Chris Young confirmed that they were included in the first email that was sent out.

Proposed as a true reflection: Zoe Foster

Seconded: Joanna Smale

3.0 MATTERS AND ACTIONS ARISING

No matters or actions arising from the minutes that would not be covered naturally as part of the meeting were raised.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Apart from apologies for absence, the secretary reported that she had not received any correspondence in relation to the AGM.

5.0 REPORTS

CHAIRMAN:

Simon thanked everyone for attending. He then paid tribute to the two members of the society who we had lost since the last AGM – Julia and Stanley Woodhouse. Both were Life Members and had served on the committee for many years – Julia was the treasurer for 40 years before handing over to Pauline, while Stan served as the Secretary and latterly as Librarian, taking care of all the old scores the society owns. Julia was also heavily involved in the Social Committee, helping to organise numerous events over the years, most notably the Arts Balls. They will both be sadly missed.

Simon then continued with an overview of the shows performed this season – First was Spamalot, which was very well received by all those who attended. This show was awarded District 3 Best Musical and Best Overall Production at the NODA Regional Awards. He thanked the production team for all their efforts. Unfortunately, ticket sales were extremely low, highlighting that it is very difficult to

chose shows that are going to popular and also that other events and shows that we put on are vital in keeping the society going.

Next was the Christmas Concert at the Little theatre, which again was well received and raised a small amount of money.

Lastly were the Cabaret shows in the villages, which again made a profit.

All new members were encouraged to be involved in the smaller events, as it is these that tend to make the money, which is vital if the society is to continue in the same way in the future.

The decision to postpone Jekyll and Hyde was then discussed, which will now be put on next May.

Future plans were then mentioned, which included Cats. To date, tickets are selling well, however Simon reiterated to everyone that we still need to sell the show and publicise it as much as we can as Grove Shows often make a loss and the best way to prevent this is selling seats!

The Christmas Concert is then back on 1st December.

Simon went on to say that due to the society's financial position, we would not be putting on a show at The Grove every year, instead changing to a cycle of every 18 months to 2 years to ensure there is enough money in the bank to support a show, should it make a loss. Therefore, in November 2020 we will be performing Nunsense the Mega Musical in Eaton Bray and Toddington, the details of which were explained by Chris Young, who will be directing the show.

Lastly, Simon thanked Cathy Maile for all her work in getting the sponsorship from Co-Op.

This will be Simon's last meeting as he is standing down as Chair, and he thanked the committee and especially Zoe Foster as Vice Chair and Chris Young for all their support.

TREASURER:

Pauline presented the society's unaudited accounts for the year ending 30th June, which will be forwarded to Higginson and Company for auditing in due course.

Firstly, Pauline pointed out that there are still a number of people paying into the old Nat West bank account and asked for those that are still doing so to set up a new Standing Order for the new Lloyds Bank account.

The society made an overall loss for the year of £5,741.16, leaving a total combined balance of £6,457.61. There are a number of advanced payments carried forward for Cats totalling £1,789.00, for license and music, plus £530.00 for Jekyll and Hyde music and room hire.

General Account

Spamalot was a huge success in lots of ways, however not financially as it made a huge loss of £8,836.26. This would have been much higher if it were not for the grant from Tesco of £2,000.

The Christmas Concert made a profit of £440.15, which was not as good as previous years, but still welcome.

The Cabarets at Eaton Bray and Toddington made a profit of £1,516.28.

Heather and the Social Committee made an overall profit of for the year of £1,058.11. This came from the Sweepstakes (Strictly and Premiership) and a Quiz night.

Other outgoings include insurance and NODA subscriptions; subscriptions were slightly down on last year due to not putting on a big show, however insurance was more.

Pauline concluded by thanking all those who have already completed a Gift Aid form and encouraged new members and friends to do so, so we can claim money back from the Government. The claim went in late due to the change in charity number, but we should receive £426.25 shortly.

There were no questions from the floor

6.0 ELECTIONS

- 1) President – Councillor Peter Hollick

Proposed: Veronica Yates

Seconded: Chris Young

- 2) Vice President – Greg Varney

Proposed: Lucy O'Hare

Seconded: Chris Young

Main Committee:

There being only one nomination for each of the committee positions, there was no vote and the following people were elected on to the committee for the coming year:

- 1) Chair – Fiona Whiteside
- 2) Vice Chair – Zoe Foster
- 3) Secretary – Alex Wheeler
- 4) Treasurer – Pauline Knowles
- 5) Business Manager – Chris Young
- 6) Publicity Manager – Cathy Maile
- 7) Membership Secretary – Denise Ryan
- 8) Production Manager – Liam Whiteside
- 9) Social Secretary – Heather Rouse

There was one vacancy on the committee and Julie Foster volunteered to take on this role for the coming year. This was proposed by Veronica Yates and seconded by Helen Rudderham.

- 3) Auditor – Higginson & Company

Proposed: Pauline Knowles

Seconded: Chris Young

- 4) Solicitors - Morton solicitors

Proposed: Zoe Foster

Seconded: Veronica Yates

- 5) Bank – Lloyds Bank

Proposed: Pauline Knowles

Seconded: Julie Foster

- 6) Life Members: Robert Adams, Susan Adams, Wendy Baker, Robin Black, Anne Blow, Alistair Brown, Phillida & Terry Driver, Debbie Dustan, Bernadette Freed, John Fryer, June Halls, John Hansen, Julie Jay, Chris Lane, Chris Lavin, Cathy Maile, John Norse, Colin Parrott, Greg Varney, Veronica Yates, Chris & Susan Young.

There were no nominations for new Life Members. Chris young mentioned that he thought than John Norse and Robin Black may have passed away although he was not sure. This will be looked into and the rest were proposed voted in en-bloc.

7.0 SUBSCRIPTIONS

As per the information that was circulated before the meeting, Simon confirmed that the subscriptions would be the same as last year: £30 per annum for both adults and juniors (on a show by show basis) or £20 if paid by standing order.

Simon also confirmed that the show fee is determined on a show by show basis.

With a show of hands, the majority were happy with this decision and the motion was passed.

8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sarah Payne, the previous membership secretary stated that she would stay around this evening if anyone wanted to pay their membership or show fees for the latest production.

Zoe Foster, on behalf of the committee and as Vice Chair, thanked Simon for all his hard work this year - Job well done!

Rosemary O'Toole requested clarification for those in the 'Cats Chorus' (pit choir) regarding membership and show fee. It was clarified by Simon that membership was due now, and that the agreed show fee was £30, or £20 if paid by the end of September.

Silo D'Souza raised the point that when he first joined, shows chosen had more for the chorus to do, so he was able to be involved in more than he is currently; the big shows at the Grove seem to be targeted at smaller casts, with the same few people getting the main parts.

Simon pointed out that this question has been discussed at committee meetings, however it is not something that is easily resolved. The number one issue is the shows that we are able to get licences for. When this is combined with trying to choose a show that will be profitable, then sadly the show may not be able to include everyone.

That said, Simon also stated that everyone is always free to join and take part in the concerts and cabaret events, which are just as important, as they tend to make money, without which, the society could not survive. They are also chosen to make the most of the society's talents and aim to be enjoyable for all to be involved in.

Simon also said that one of the main reasons why membership is so low, it to encourage people to stay as members, with a much higher show fee on a show by show basis. This was introduced in the hope that people would see it as good value for money, rather than paying a higher membership and lower show fee (especially if you are not able to be in a show, for whatever reason).

Chris Young pointed out that an annual membership of only £20 per person does not really cover the running costs for the society (rehearsal rooms, insurance, NODA membership, accountancy fees etc.)

This is clearly an important matter, and the choice of shows will continue to be discussed by the next committee.

Rosemary O'Toole wanted to point out the merits of helping backstage as a way of keeping in touch with the society and staying involved and encouraged everyone to have a go if they are not involved on stage. Simon agreed, and added that without the backstage crew there would be no show, so are just as important.

With no more questions from the floor, Simon thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:25pm.

DUNSTABLE MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1180255

GENERAL ACCOUNT YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2019

INCOME	2018/19		2017/18	
	£	£	£	£
Members Subscriptions	£810.00		£690.00	
Patronage	£490.00		£537.50	
Gift Aid			£266.90	
Interest - Business Reserve Account	£0.00		£1.19	
Members Efforts	£1,833.20		£1,101.37	
Sale of Assets	£25.00		£956.01	
Cabaret profit	£1,516.28		£1,693.96	
Xmas Concert - Christmas at the Rep profit	£440.15		£654.20	
Slice of Saturday Night profit			£358.18	
	<u>£5,114.63</u>		<u>£6,259.31</u>	
LESS EXPENDITURE				
NODA Subscriptions		£163.00		£185.00
Insurance		£653.14		£643.14
Loss on Shows				
Spamalot		£8,836.26		£20.00
Sister Act				£61.58
Audit		£390.00		£390.00
Members Efforts		£775.09		£73.56
Hall hire AGM				£20.00
Sundries		£38.30		£28.68
		<u>£10,855.79</u>		<u>£1,421.96</u>
NET PROFIT/LOSS		<u>-£5,741.16</u>		<u>£4,837.35</u>

Pauline Knowles
Pauline Knowles
Hon.Treasurer