

Shaftesbury Arts Centre

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 21 February 2018

Attendees: JC Parker, P Ryley, J Cadmore, S Cadmore, V Baker, D Hollis, K Pickard, G Ewart-Dean, D Silverside, J Butcher, S Roberts, R Drewett, S Daniels, S Trim, C Hughes, R Lloyd, B Ambrose, S Hoskins, A Hoskins, S Pocock, R Ralph, K Tippings, L Phillips, K Pill, V Favrand, J Parker

Proxies: E Bowman, I Bowman

Apologies: R Butcher, A Harrison, K Harrison, H Lanchbury, C Lloyd, R Longfoot, B Pickard, J Ralph, C Ryley, G Spencer, L Taylor

The Chairman, Jenny Parker, welcomed members to this, the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Shaftesbury Arts Centre and invited them to stay afterwards for networking and refreshments.

Resolution 1: The minutes of the 2017 AGM which had been issued to all members prior to the meeting were proposed by K Pickard and seconded by R Drewett to be approved and were unanimously approved.

There were no matters arising from the 2017 minutes.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman referred members to her report in the Annual Report and Accounts which had been issued to all members prior to the meeting.

Jenny stated how pleasing it had been to be given planning permission by North Dorset District Council for the Phase IV Building Project last May, but how disappointing it had been to have our application to Arts Council England for funding for the project to be turned down in June. However, she emphasised that the Board saw this situation as one of delay whilst further funding avenues were explored, rather than as one of cancellation of the project.

Jenny then went on to give heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who help make the Arts Centre what it is, and without whom it simply could not carry on. She reported to the members how one recent visitor had commented that "the Centre looked so professional that it was hard to believe that it was run entirely by volunteers"!

However, Jenny reminded the members that running the Centre was not without cost: latest estimates are that just general running costs (ie excluding specific costs of shows and events) amounted to over £1,500 per week and that hence we depended upon the surpluses earned by those shows and events.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Pete Ryley, also referred members to the report in the Annual Report and Accounts, but also to the single page summary of the income and expenditure of the Centre (which, again, had been issued to all members prior to the meeting). He reminded members that the summary had been requested at the last AGM by Jo Rutter who had sadly died recently, as just one of the many items of financial and managerial advice provided by him over many years: Jo will be sorely missed.

Pete reported that the Centre had made a general funds surplus of almost £17,800 in the year to 31 August, and a Restricted Funds surplus of over £143,600. However, he pointed out that in order to maximise the income into the Raise the Roof Fund all donations, grants, etc received in the year had been designated to the restricted fund at the time of their receipt. This had resulted in the general funds surplus not being enough to cover the costs of scheduled repayments of bank loans and of capital expenditures: these had had to be covered by using some of the cash reserves built up over prior years. The Board had therefore decided that in future all non-specified donations, grants, etc should be retained in general funds until the draft accounts for the year are reviewed to determine how much surplus is available for loan repayments, etc and therefore how much can be designated to restricted funds.

He confirmed that the Board was actively pursuing ideas for increasing income and for saving costs in order to ensure long-term financial stability.

Resolution 2: It was proposed by J Butcher, seconded by S Roberts, and unanimously approved that the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 August 2017 be adopted.

The Chairman identified the four directors retiring by rotation and confirmed their agreement to stand for re-election. She also confirmed that no nominations for new directors had been received by the due date. (She pointed out that two nominations had been received after the due date, and that those nominations would be considered during the forthcoming year should any of the Board resign.)

Resolution 3: It was unanimously approved that the four retiring directors be re-elected to the Board.

There were no items of Any Other Business.

Business being concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm.