

## Shaftesbury Arts Centre

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 11 March 2019

- Attendees:** JC Parker, J Parker, P Ryley, M Muir, B Arnold, J Cadmore, S Cadmore, U Sparrow, G Ewart-Dean, V Rudd, V Baker, J Butcher, H Lanchbury, S Roberts, J Neaser, K Burkett, S Hoskins, K Pickard, B Pickard, A Hoskins, C Hughes, C Turner, A Chase, K Harrison, A Harrison, G Spencer, B Farrell, R Drewett, S Daniels, R Ralph, C Montague, J Baldwin, D Baldwin, A Burton, J Rutter, D Hollis, R Foreman, P Kelly, D Goodrich, T Trenchard, J Trenchard
- Proxies:** M Pennell
- Apologies:** R Butcher, S Cuff, A Cuff, G Lewis, R Lloyd, C Lloyd, R Longfoot, S Neaser, P Proctor, J Ralph, B Rutter, C Rutter, C Ryley, A Smith, T Smith, E Smith, S Trim, C Walpole

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

**Resolution 1:** There being no notice of errors or omissions, the minutes of the 2018 AGM which had been issued to all members prior to the meeting were unanimously approved.

There were no matters arising from the 2018 minutes.

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

She first reminded members that the Arts Centre was a thriving organisation, with many arts-related offerings to the community and supporting many community groups in their endeavours. However, that success brought the corollary of a continuing lack of space and the consequent difficulties in managing room requests from users.

The Centre was therefore determined to continue with its Phase IV Building Programme, albeit having to proceed in stages following the refusal of our funding request to Arts Council England. She announced to members that the first stage would be the development of the new Dance Studio, commencing immediately after the summer show in July. She emphasised that this was an important task since it would secure the planning permission for the entire Phase IV building programme.

She gave heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who operate both in the public view and behind the scenes to help make the Arts Centre what it is, and without whom it simply could not carry on. She also gave thanks for the financial support of organisations in the town including Rutters solicitors, Proctor, Cole, Watts & Rutter, the Town Council and Shaftesbury Charitable Trust, and the many advertisers who support the production of our programmes.

**Treasurer's Report:** On behalf of the Treasurer, the Company Secretary referred members to the Financial Review in the Annual Report and Accounts and also to the single page summary of the income and expenditure of the Centre as requested at a previous AGM by Jo Rutter and which had been issued to all members prior to the meeting.

He summarised the report as showing that the Arts Centre had had a good year financially, making a surplus for general funds of over £25,000 plus an additional £20,000 for the restricted fund, "Funding the Future". He pointed out that a key factor underlying this result was good cost control exemplified by the maintenance of overhead costs at £61,000 (being the same as the previous year). He also reminded members that the general surplus was required each year to cover the annual £21,000 repayment of the bank loans, and that these loans were on course to be fully repaid as scheduled by 2023.

**Resolution 2:** It was unanimously approved that the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 August 2018 be adopted.

## **Election of Directors**

The Chairman having reported the resignations during the year of two directors, John Pierce and Pete Ryley, for personal reasons, the Company Secretary identified one director who was similarly standing down as from this AGM, Rick Longfoot. The Chairman led a vote of thanks for all their efforts, and also for Rick's agreement to continue in his role of administering External Bookings.

The Company Secretary then identified the three directors retiring by rotation, Amber Harrison, Kevin Harrison and Caroline Hughes, and confirmed their agreement to stand for re-election.

He also confirmed that nominations for new directors had been received by the due date from three members: Karen Burkett, Alex Chase and Rosie King.

As there were sufficient places on the Board to accommodate the re-election of the retiring directors and the three new nominations, the Company Secretary proposed that all six be elected.

**Resolution 3:** It was unanimously approved that the three retiring directors be re-elected, and the three new nominations be elected, to the Board.

## **Phase IV Building Project**

The Chairman summarised both progress to date and the next steps for the Phase IV Building Project and requested any comments or questions from members.

She replied to a question from John Baldwin that the new dance studio would be such that current functions of the Proctor Room could continue.

In response to Unity Sparrow, she stated that the works on the new dance studio were expected to take c. 3 months and that current users of that area would be re-accommodated for that time.

She confirmed to Sue Cadmore that the flooring in the new dance studio would be usable by all forms of dance, and to Sophie Lester that that included metal-toed tap dancing, but that stiletto heels and metal-legged furniture would not be allowed there.

Sandy Roberts then asked whether the new studio would be a "thoroughfare" (as is the current studio) and the Chairman confirmed that it would not, and that alternative means of access to the rear facilities was included in the full Phase IV programme. She also confirmed to Unity that the rear lift access (e.g. to the Art Studio) would still be included in the full Phase IV programme.

She and the Company Secretary replied to Robert Ralph's question regarding major funding that the Arts Centre was still working with Arts Council England to determine which of their funding streams was most suitable and against which we should apply. She then also confirmed to Sophie that if our next application were also to fail, then it would merely delay the project, not cancel it.

The Vice-chairman replied to a question from Pam Kelly regarding the roof, that it still showed intermittent leaking, that a surveyor had reviewed it, and that local repairs would continue to be made until funding for its replacement became available, probably when the current bank loans were repaid.

## **Any Other Business**

Sophie Lester made a plea for more and better communication within the Centre, particularly between different user groups, between group management teams, and to/from the Board, giving examples of practical difficulties that had arisen because of a lack of prior information. Several members supported her plea whilst recognising the efforts already made such as "link directors" for several groups, invitations to group representatives to make presentations to the board, the regular publication of board minutes on the website, etc. and the Chairman asked all members to propose improvements.

Business being concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20 pm.