

## Shaftesbury Arts Centre

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 9 March 2020

- Attendees:** JC Parker, P Ryley, J Cadmore, V Baker, K Burkett, S Cadmore, A Chase, W Church, S Daniels, R Drewett, K Harrison, D Hollis, C Hughes, J Johnson, R King, S Lester, C Lloyd, R Lloyd, J Parker, K Pickard, B Pickard, S Pocock, J Ralph, R Ralph, S Roberts, D Silverside, A Wykham, R Wykham
- Proxies:** (none)
- Apologies:** G Lewis, E Lindsey-Rea, S Minshaw, C Payne, B Rutter, C Rutter, J Rutter, C Ryley, A Smith, G Spencer, J Swan, S Trim, H Watkins

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 2019 AGM which had been issued to all members prior to the meeting were proposed by A Chase, seconded by S Roberts, and unanimously approved. They were signed as a true and correct record by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising from the 2019 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 growing in many areas, with many shows, films, and talks, often bringing large and new audiences.

She then announced the re-formation of the SAC Youth Theatre with "ever-growing numbers and talent" and plans to train youngsters in all the skills needed to put on a show, and the successes enjoyed from the Live Streaming programme introduced during the year.

Although it was completed after the end of the 2018-19 year, she also paid tribute to the teams who had ensured that the first tangible result of the Phase IV Building Project, the new Dance Studio, was now up and running.

She gave heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who operate both in the public view, including at external events such as Motcombe Fair, Gold Hill Fair and the Shaftesbury & Gillingham Show, and behind the scenes at the Arts Centre.

**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 the late 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 c.£33,000 plus an additional £22,000 for the restricted fund, "Funding the Future". He pointed out that key factors underlying this result were increases in net income from almost all SAC activities with good cost control exemplified by the reduction in overhead costs to under £59,000 (from £61,000 in 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:** After being proposed by K Burkett and seconded by R Ralph, it was unanimously approved that the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 August 2019 be adopted.

## **Election of Directors**

The Chairman reported the resignations of two directors, Amber Harrison and Sandra Trim, both for personal reasons, and thanked them for their loyal service to the Arts Centre over many years. The Company Secretary then announced that, after the agenda had been issued to members, one nominee as new director, Jonti Grant, had also decided to withdraw his nomination, again for personal reasons.

The Company Secretary then identified the three directors retiring by rotation, John Cadmore, Sue Cadmore and Ruth Drewett, and confirmed their agreement to stand for re-election.

The Chairman also confirmed that a nomination as a new director had been received by the due date from Jo Johnson.

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

**Resolution 3:** It was proposed by C Hughes, seconded by R King and unanimously approved that the three retiring directors be re-elected, and the new nominee be elected to the Board.

## **Any Other Business**

To a question regarding the increase compared to last year in Restricted Fund income, the Chairman replied that it was due to a very full programme of events and many fund-raising activities.

A clear concern of the members was the continuing delay in repair/replacement of the roof of the auditorium: several members told of leaks, particularly during the recent heavy rains, including some onto the stage itself. It was accepted that these leaks were intermittent and occurred during heavy rain when the wind was in certain directions. Recent surveys and photographs showed that the surface of the roof was sound and not likely to fall in and that patch repairs to weak spots would be sufficient to deal with any weaknesses before the intended date of replacement in 2023. The Chairman and Vice-chairman explained that the original intention had been to replace the roof as part of the major Phase IV Building Project, rather than to replace it as a standalone project before Phase IV when it would have had to be replaced again. The buildings committee would keep a close eye on the situation, but needed to be told if water was coming in as they were not always on site. New members are always welcome to join the Buildings group and members were invited to join the Phase 4 steering group. No members stepped forward for either of these positions.

Two separate concerns were raised regarding the new Dance Studio: a group had been unable to follow the planned exit route when a fire alarm was sounded, and the soundproofing (to rooms below) was not good. The Chairman replied that the fire-exit door had since that occasion been eased (although one member requested that a replacement door be installed) and the builders working next door had been reminded to not block the exit with their equipment. She also explained that the constructors of the Dance Studio floor had done as much as was possible to soundproof it.

Finally, a member had suggested that it might be easier for more members to attend an AGM if it were held on a Saturday morning: however, members at the meeting responded that weekends were often "family days" and that their preference continued to be to hold AGM's on weekday evenings.

Business being concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:10 pm.