

Whetstone Drama Group – AGM 26th January 2022

Present

Carl Smith - **Chairman**, Jon Sutcliffe - **Secretary** and Steve Cutler-Thomas -**Treasurer**.
Sandra Sutcliffe, Paul Hurford, Carrie Peters, Ben Cutler-Thomas, Martin Peters, Nicola Voyle,
Louisa Rimmer, Peter James, Kate Holyland, Mel Wale, Sue Wale, Graham Muddimer, Yvonne Clayton,
Conner Woodcock, David Wortley and Ben Love.
Also in attendance Hilary Allen from the Central England Co-op.

Apologies

Alan Wilson, Richard Sutcliffe, Jean and Bernard Warner and Trish Kenyon.

Minutes of last meeting

Jon Sutcliffe read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd February 2022.
All agreed these as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report

As Chair Carl Smith welcomed all to the meeting.

Carl delivered the Chair's report and a full copy of the report is available on the website. In summary;

- 2022 marked our 60th year as a drama group.
- We delivered two productions: **The Lady in the Van** directed by Ben Cutler-Thomas and for our 60th anniversary production **Oklahoma** directed by Sandra Sutcliffe.
- Carl gave thanks to Steve Cutler-Thomas for all his financial and technical help over the year.
- We are exploring the possibility of a lease with the URC. This would develop our drama group and provide other opportunities for expansion in a number of fields.
- Sandra was thanked for the continuing Murder Mystery programme over the last year.
- A new successful Community day of events was held in May to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Thanks were given to Hillary and Karen from the Central Co-operative Society for all their help and support over the last year.
- Social activities over the last year included the Christmas trip to Thursford and the usual New Year Party in early January.

The Future of the Youth Group

Proposal – We continue to run the Youth Group as a separate arm of the main group and that before productions the director sets out their proposals for safeguarding to the Trustees for approval. We also feel the approval of Local Authority (Leicestershire County Council) Safeguarding team would offer us further reassurance.

This was agreed and carried unanimously. Sandra updated us on the necessary chaperone system and the general required safeguarding requirements.

Yvonne asked if the group could apply as a whole for a DBS. Sandra responded stating we are registered with a Care Agency who can do DBS checks when required.

Membership Matters: Steve Cutler-Thomas

We need to register formally as members as this is important for insurance purposes.

We are required to keep details of membership by Company Law.

Our membership renewal is to be done on line. And as a result on line information comes by email to all members.

Kate and Ben are to organise a drive to recruit new members to our group in the near future.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Cutler-Thomas

Steve Cutler-Thomas provided a detailed update to the group on the current financial position as at 31st December 2022. In summary a promising healthy picture.

Steve's report, available on the website, included detail breakdowns of costs / profits for last year as well as grants and purchases.

Response of Representative from the Co-op

Hilary thanked Carl for the Report. She also thanked Steve for presenting a Treasurer's report we could all understand. Thanks were given to our group for promoting members social and mental health over the last two years. Hilary congratulated the group on reaching the 60th anniversary and commented on the quality publicity stand at the local Whetstone Co-op. Hilary highlighted a number of future events. These included "Blaby Insomnia" a mental health event on 2/2/23, Women's Day on March 8th, the Fair Trade fortnight in March, the Blaby Council Awards and the Co-op AGM on May 3rd.

Carl thanked our Co-op friends and colleagues and underlined how they now feel very much part of our group.

Future productions

- **A Chorus of Disapproval** directed by Carrie Peters on 18 – 20 May.
- **The Vicar of Dibley** directed by Ben Cutler-Thomas on 4 – 7 October.
- **Christmas Show** produced by Carl Smith on 6 – 9 December.

Murder Mystery Group – Sandra Sutcliffe

MM are providing acting opportunities for members who aren't included in plays. Our latest production " A Twist for Oliver " has been well received at various venues across the County.

Any Other Business

Mel raised the issue of reserved seating for the disabled. This will be discussed at the next trustee meeting.

Minutes agreed

Carl Smith (Chair)

Date