

Whetstone Drama Group – AGM May 21st 2019

Present

Carl Smith- Chairman, Jon Sutcliffe- Secretary and Steve Cutler- Treasurer.

Mel Wale, Sandra Sutcliffe, Carrie Peters, Margaret Brombley, Ben Thomas John Freer, Penny Freer, Martin Peters, Sue Wale, Graham Ward, Graham Muddimer, Nicola Voyle, Alan Wilson, Peter James, Spencer Greasley, Val Morgan, Patricia Kenyon and Ben Love.

Apologies

Bob Christer, Amy Christer, Richard Sutcliffe, Louisa Cohen, Kate Holyland, Charlotte Stokes, Jean Warner, Bernard Warner, Norma Lawrence, Paul Lawrence and Kaila Handley.

Welcome and introductions

As Chair, Carl Smith opened and welcomed all to the meeting. It has been an excellent year for the group in all aspects. We are in a healthy position financially with good reserves. Successful productions directed by Sandra, Carrie and Norma highlighted the year. Our Youth group continues to prosper with a production directed by Ben. Our Murder Mystery productions continue to grow in popularity. Many thanks to Steve for his production of Murder in Motown. Carl presented his Chair's report and details were distributed and verbally summarised. Carl agreed to update the Business Plan.

Minutes of last meeting

Jon Sutcliffe read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 15/05/18. All agreed these as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

- ***NANDA*** – we haven't heard anything yet re this year's ward dinner. Sandra and Ben to enquire and contact interested members.
- ***Container*** – the new one in place and starting to be racked out. Storage space much improved now.
- ***Lighting and Sound*** – grants have enabled the purchase of two lighting bars and fitments. We now have floodlights with wide beams, zooms and a smart logo highlighting WDG beamed on to a surface. Sound speakers have been moved out and are now not backstage. Some good new ideas with sound from Ben Love.
- ***Charitable Status*** – it was agreed to put this matter on hold and discuss at a committee meeting.
- ***Other venues*** – Jon gave details of availability and cost for Countesthorpe College. No dates are available for autumn 2020 and there are just two weeks free in mid-January 2021. The cost to hire for a week would be a minimum of

£2000. Ben and Trish Kenyon will make enquiries re the possibility of Thomas Estley for a future venue.

- **URC** – in order to facilitate communication between our group and the URC a small committee will be set up. The committee will meet two or three times a year. Sandra will set this up.
- **Costumes** – with the new container and more storage space the previous issues are now being resolved.

Finance

- Steve Cutler provided a detailed update to the group on the current financial position as at 30/04/18.
- Opening cash available £7,217, production surplus £3000 and general income £400. General expenses for the period £2,700. Capital Grants received £700 and Capital Improvements made £5000 (new lighting). Total cash available £3617
- Steve gave out detail breakdowns of play costs for last year.

Election of committee members

Full committee members are presently in post until May 2020. Jean Warner and Norma Lawrence indicated they wished to step down. Both Norma and Jean were thanked warmly for their many years of service on the committee. Jon will write a letter of thanks to Norma and Jean. After asking for volunteers for new committee members the decision was made for Graham Ward to be a full committee member with voting rights. Peter James and Nicky Voyle were also elected to the committee. Carl, Jon and Steve are happy to continue as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Publicity

- Ben reported publicity through social media is going well. We have around 300 on our marketing lists.
- For the last play 1 in 5 tickets were sold on line. However, 24 people did not turn up as promised. Steve suggested a card payment system over the phone. However there would be issues re card payment with front of house staff.
- Rainbow Café in Whetstone will sell play tickets for us.
- Our committee meeting in February focusing on publicity and ticket sales has had positive results. We had virtually full houses on all three nights for the recent production of “Appointment with Death.”
- Jon has contacted Blaby Council and we now have a contact streaming system with a number of local groups.

Planned productions

- 2019 – The Blitz Club directed by Carrie on October 9/10/11/12. Rehearsals starting in mid-June.
- December 11/12/13/14 Christmas Show directed by Carl.
- 2020 – Spring production directed maybe by Paul Lawrence. Carl to enquire.
- March – a possibility of Sandra repeating “Appointment with Death” for two nights at the Little Theatre during the One Act Play Festival week.
- Youth Group – a production in the spring. Sandra to decide.
- Ben would be interested in directing a musical production in autumn 2020.
- Murder Mysteries – Sandra is writing a new one based on Hi-di-+Hi. We already have 8 bookings between September and February. Peter James offered help with future printing costs.
- Spencer indicated he would like to produce a play in the future.

Any Other Business

- Parish Centre – Steve is on the committee to help raise money towards refurbishment. Grant bidding may help the cause.
- Graham Muddimer asked for the purchase of more flats. This will be discussed in committee.
- Cost of URC increasing and needs monitoring.

Minutes agreed
Carl Smith – Chair

Date