

The Society of the Rotherfield Players

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24th May 2018

At 8pm at the Memorial Institute, Rotherfield

Present: Andy Miller, James Gallifant, Ros Williams, Robert Chesterton, Alison Organ, Kate Organ, David Close, Jo Evans, Derek Holland, Brian Hampton, Heather Campbell, Sarah Boorman, Thomas Ballantyne Dyke

1) Apologies

Alan Yates, Lynn Lunn, Sue and Nigel Burnett, Jacky Jenkins

2) Minutes of AGM – Wednesday 7th June 2017

Read by Andy Miller.

Agreed and signed by Andy Miller.

3) Matters Arising

Gift Aid is being pursued. This may be of benefit to the society.

4) Chairman's Report

Given by Andy Miller.

See copy in file.

Another really successful year has passed, with excellent productions in every slot. Our audiences have shown their appreciation by the high regard in the feedback we have received for the work and effort that has gone into every production.

Thanks to all involved and to mention some of the behind the scenes people, Janet Duchesne for her scenery painting for "Cinderella".

Mark Tasker for set and props building e.g. Cinderella's coach!

Brian Hampton for excellent lighting support.

Derek Holland started the year with the very funny "Entertaining Angels".

Thanks to Alison Organ for directing the fabulously successful outdoor production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Jo Evans, for stepping in at the eleventh hour and putting together the very funny "Rotherfield Fringe" in October, which went down a treat with our audiences.

Derek Holland again, for his direction of the pantomime "Cinderella", loved by all who saw it and for putting us right back at the top of the pantomime tree!

And most recently Robert Chesterton for "Dangerous Corner", a play which had the audiences gasping at the interval.

Thanks to all members of the excellent casts of these productions, back stage support people, production teams and the front of house teams.

The “Raising the Roof” project is well underway with over 30K raised already. See agenda point 7.

Amy Principato has done an excellent job with publicity this year, but unfortunately due to some family commitments is not able to continue and is stepping down from the Committee.

Thanks to Amy for all her help and hard work this past year.

Ticket Source, the on line ticket purchasing system was introduced for “Dangerous Corner”. After some initial teething problems, it worked well in principle and we will continue to use it for future productions.

We are in the fortunate position of having confirmed directors lined up for the next year.

Sarah Truelove will direct a Junior Production in October, with children from her Stage Door drama group and the Players Juniors.

Barry Shyvers will be directing the next pantomime, title to be confirmed.

Derek Holland is putting his director’s hat on again and will be in charge of the Spring slot.

Sandra Barfield is confirmed to direct an Agatha Christie play for the outdoor production at the Kings Arms and Lurgashall.

Brian Hampton has informed us of pending new European regulations regarding lighting equipment. Andy had received some advice and is in the process of communication with our MEP regarding lobbying to allow amateur societies to be exempt.

Finally, Andy gave thanks to the Committee for all their hard work and support and a personal thanks to Ros for her secretarial support. Well done to all.

5) Treasurer’s Report

Given by James Gallifant.

See copy in file.

James reported that the accounts have changed dramatically during the year as a result of the amalgamation with The Pantiles Players, that contributed £13,567 as an exceptional item. Of the money from The Pantiles Players, £10,000 has been transferred to the Raise the Roof account, and also £8,000 from our own resources.

Profits have been made from our productions during the financial year as follows:

“Entertaining Angels”	profit = £1,484
“A Midsummer Nights Dream”	profit = £2,969
“The Rotherfield Fringe”	loss = £1
“Cinderella”	profit = £2,772

Bank balances are as stated in the financial report for the year ended 31st March 2018.

James has worked on the accounting system to allow easier extraction of information.

For example, Hall Hire Costs:

£380 Village Hall in Lurgashall for performance

£618 Memorial Institute for rehearsals

£224 Scout Hut for rehearsals

£4,095 Village Hall in Rotherfield for rehearsals and performances

6) **Election of Officers**

The following were re-elected unopposed:

Andy Miller – Chairman

James Gallifant – Treasurer

Ros Williams – Secretary

Publicity Officer: Kate Organ offered to lead a “Publicity Team” of three to four people and this was accepted.

7) **Election of the Committee**

Amy Principato and Dan Shaw have decided to stand down.

Andy thanked Amy and Dan for their help.

The following people were willing to remain on the Committee unopposed:

Robert Chesterton

David Close

Alison Organ

Heather Campbell

Sarah Boorman was nominated by Kate Organ and seconded by Ros Williams.

With no further nominations, there is one vacancy.

- Dan subsequently apologised for not giving his apologies through illness and also asked to remain on the Committee

8) **Raising the Roof Project**

Robert gave an overview of the current position.

Our Planning Permission Application was agreed on initial consultation but subsequently we were asked to provide a ‘Bat Survey’ and statement concerning effect on Village/Hall appearance.

Robert has addressed these items and formal planning application is expected shortly.

An ecological survey costing £600 was requested to check for roosting bats in the village hall roof. No droppings were found. A further dusk survey was carried out at the beginning of May and this found no bat activity in the Hall roof. The report also cautioned on development at certain times unless precautions were taken.

When permission is granted, an architect and structural engineer will be appointed and quotes will be obtained in order to further approaches to organisations for the necessary grants needed. The Rotherfield Trust have agreed a donation in principle and so will be contacted again.

We do have good support and it has been accepted that raising the roof enabling the stage to be raised is not just for the benefit of the Players, but for the audiences and other users.

9) Any Other Business

Jo Evans asked if we would be able to support the Rotherfield Lunch Club who provide three course lunches every Thursday in the Village Hall for the elderly.

It would be approximately once every 6 – 8 weeks on a rota basis.

Around five people would be needed to cook for and serve about 40 -50 people and clear away.

The volunteers get a free meal.

It was agreed that we would provide a team and Andy would lead the team.

Alison will put a request out in the next Newsletter.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm