

**Wells Operatic Society Limited**  
**Minutes of the meeting on**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.30pm**

**COMMITTEE**

Chris Briton (chair), Cllr and Mayor Alison Gibson (President), Richard Wright, Pauline Perrin, Ken Edmonds, Alisa Creaser, Graham Brown, Lyn Jones, Sharon Edmonds, Mike Scammell, Dave Collyer, Gerald Evers

**Apologies** Lyn Jones, Mike Scammell

Nick Furze attended this meeting to give feedback regarding the Stage and Pit Project. Item 7d was covered first. This took some time so many of the other agenda items were postponed to the next meeting.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting** - agreed
- 2. Matters Arising** – covered below
- 3. Correspondence**
  - a. Doreen Grant (Child Protection Officer) – has just applied for another year's exemption certificate and returned it to County Hall, basically the same as last year. Copy given to GE and CB. DG will have a meeting for new chaperones on the policy and procedures and also display them during pantomime as we just might get a drop in visit.
  - b. We have heard from The Phoebe Rees Competition and INSP DRAKE AND THE PERFEKT CRIME has been nominated for -  
Best Direction: Doreen Grant  
Best Actor: Ken Edmonds as Sgt Plod  
Best Set Construction: Mike Scammell and team  
Best Props: Joanne Hartley-Scammell and Vicky Orman
  - c. NODA – details from their AGM are on the noticeboard
- 4. Treasurer's Report**

No issues.
- 5. Membership**
  - a. New members – none, pantomime are being collected
  - b. AGM – **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**
  - c. Dinner Dance – date and time to be confirmed (probably 25<sup>th</sup> February) - **AC**
- 6. Publicity**

Twelfth Night – ongoing.
- 7. Theatre Renovations**
  - a. GE outline maintenance walk. Details are attached, main discussion next meeting.
  - b. GB will look at future lighting issues and bring some quotes to the next meeting. The kit we have at the moment is all quite old and not easily repaired or replaced. Electrically some items might fail PAT tests. Choices - either a long term LED replacement – costly but best long term result. It was suggested we could look at a rolling programme of say £4000 per year. Or continue to use replacement tungsten lamps, possibly ex-hire. Further discussion with costs at the next meeting.
  - c. KE will reminded us of the seating options we looked at last year. £30,000 – £58000 for 200 seats. It would be useful to also look at the layout of the auditorium.
  - d. Nick Furze presented the case for the Stage and Pit Project. Although the Arts Council bid for funds had been unsuccessful, there are ways forward. The Arts Council funding was not achieved because of the perceived lack of 'public engagement', i.e. the proposed changes would have no significant benefit to the wider Wells community. A long and detailed discussion took place with all members

asking questions and making honest comments regarding the validity of the project. The frank and at times emotional discussion was a genuine reflection of members concerns. It was agreed that-

- i. An Audience Development and Marketing Plan would be undertaken by NF. This will involve contacting potential new users of the Theatre stage and pit, to establish their demand. Such groups could include U3A, Disability and Special needs, youth groups, minorities, some or all that would have previously not considered or realised that our planned changes could allow greater scope to appreciate the Musical Theatre experience.
  - ii. Members were agreed that we will not become a community centre, but could be a community Music and Theatrical Hub. For example the Audience growth for Folk Music and Dance could be a new avenue for our Society to promote. GE and CB will be kept fully aware of all the proposals considered; this could lead to an increase in bookings and hiring. NF will re-visit the potential Theatre Groups identified in our original application.
  - iii. DC will evaluate the changes made to the present stage and pit made by Mark Wall. MW has asked if the alterations he made have been fully tested. We should consider if these alterations have compromised our plans, in particular any effect on audience or performer safety, such concerns forming a significant element in our proposal (especially the legally required changes to the audience/pit barrier).
  - iv. The information, wall displays, website and fliers should be updated to reflect the present situation with a display of funds achieved.
  - v. It was agreed that the theatre's financial reserves would not be now used to support this project. The funds achieved, plus a successful Arts Council bid should be sufficient for the project to proceed. Any additional funding will be provide by further specific fund raising events.
  - vi. The committee recognise the effort and commitment that members of the Stage and Pit Project have given to this work. Thank you.
  - vii. The Committee Members agreed to endorse our intention to re-apply for an Arts Council grant probably within the next six months.
- e. PP clarified the funds that we have available. It was agreed that we should look to produce a long term financial budget that will prepare for the repair and replacement of costly items within the theatre i.e. stage lighting, roof structure and auditorium seating. Discuss at the next meeting.
- f. Bar lighting – **MS** - ongoing
- g. PAT testing – **MS** - ongoing
- h. The Timber Store has now been modified - using old scaffolding poles and clamps that Frank donated. Many thanks to Chris Spray and team.

## 8. Productions/Trifold/Hire

- a. Details and dates for the Mayor's Fundraising events-
  - i. **Mayor's Charity Quiz Night and Supper** at the Town Hall on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016, 7pm for 7.30pm start**. We will provide and run a bar (**RW, MS**), **KE** will arrange a quiz master, we will support the sale of tickets from the Town Hall – max teams of 6, £5 per person, book place, pay on the night. It might be necessary to set up on the Friday – because the Market makes it difficult to access on the Saturday. Arthritis Care will support arrangements. The **Mayor** will arrange a 'sandwich' supper. The **Mayor** will arrange advertising, which we can also promote though our website etc. Raffle prizes and the Quiz Prize tbc. PA in town Hall. Theatre volunteers will be needed to run the bar, check tickets on the door, serve the food and arrange the venue. The theatre should be able to provide a number of teas for the event. Terry Rickets Quiz Master with Lesley as scorer. – Tickets on sale during Twelfth Night.
  - ii. We will support (on the door etc) a **Wells City Band concert** at the Town Hall. Depending on the date it might be possible to also provide the bar, we could arrange publicity, and ticket sales if needed; Date now agreed as **Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 7.30pm**. Further arrangements to follow in the New Year.
  - iii. The event organised and run by Arthritis Care on **Saturday Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** with the **Grey Dog Jazz Band** playing outside at the front of Town Hall collected £306 – fantastic.

iv. Arthritis Care are also looking into a **Film Night** with supper at Wells Cinema in **Feb 2017**. Details to follow.

- **September 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Twelfth Night***, Director – **RW**, Choreography – **Tina Eyers**, SM – **Charlie Watkins**, Props - **Pat Watkins**, Lighting - **GB**, Costumes – **Louise Baker**, Prompt – **Freda Brown** , Budget – **agreed**, Ticket Price – **£12 & £10**, Rehearsal schedule – **agreed**
- **December 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 – *Jack and the Beanstalk*** – Director - **Sharon Edmonds**, Writer and Producer – **Vicky Orman**. MD - **Sheila Ross**, Adult and Children’s Choreographer – **Julie Webster**, Stage Manager – **Charlie Watkins**, Lighting - **GB**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Props **Lesley Ricketts**, Budget – **done**, Ticket Price – **£11 and £8**, Rehearsal schedule – **done**
- **March 2017 – *Any Ideas?*** All suggestions to **AC** for the reading group to look at. Doreen Grant is possibly thinking of a few and will have a reading in the next couple of weeks.
- **May 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2017 – *Our House***. Director - **GE**. Choreography - **Tina Eyers**, Rights received. MD – **Teresa Barlow**, Assistant MD – **Sheila Ross**, Producer – **AC**, SM – **Chris Spray**, Props – **Val Burbidge**, Lighting – **Graham Brown**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Costumes - **?**, Prompt – **Freda Brown** , Make up – **Helen and Julie Makin**, Video recording – **Adam Lanfranchi**, Budget – **tbc**, Publicity - **?**, Ticket Price – **£13 & £10**, Rehearsal schedule – **agreed**
- **September 20-23<sup>rd</sup> 2017** Lois Harbinson has offered to direct. She is looking at titles.
- **Pantomime 2017** - Director - **Ken Edmonds**, Vicky to write it!

## 9. Training

**DC** - to look into Charity Commission training. - Ongoing

**PP** - to contact accountants – financial information training – to be arranged for Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 7.30-8.00 to be confirmed.

**DG** – chaperone training date to be confirmed

**CS, GE** – Fire Evacuation Procedures. **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 7pm** anyone who is interested can come along.

## 10. Show Reviews

Next meeting

## 11. Any Other Business

CB – has donated a CD player to the bar.

GE – We need to talk about membership classification next meeting

## 12. Date of next meeting – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October then Monday Nov 28<sup>th</sup>