

10/November/2022

Minutes of Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre. AGM Financial Year to 31 January 2022

Meeting start 18:45 at The Pallant

Apologies: Steve Weaver, Alex Booth, Kate Boylin and Lynn Watts

Attendees: Wendy Willats (Chair and Treasurer); Andrew Bowker (Artistic Director); Holly Jordan-Norris (Secretary); Fritz Simpson (Vice Chair); Linda Stimpson; Tricia Roberts; Richard Watts; Mary Fletcher; Emily Frost; Joe Wilcox; Phil Dwight; Karen Dwight; Callum Cairns; Kevin West; Claire Denton; Ryan Rock; Andrew Kift; Jane Scott; Ethel Ray; Wayne Thomas; Mark Fletcher; Karen Stephens; Rebecca Chalcraft; and Callum West

Minutes from previous AGM proposed and passed with no issues brought forward. •

Proposed by Richard Watts

• Seconded by Wendy Willats

All approved

Treasury Report presented by Mark Fletcher.

The charitable company began the year with a sound base, having restricted the financial impact of the first year of the pandemic. This year has again been hit by the effect of the Covid lockdown. Fundraising opportunities were limited and only one show was achieved. Membership has also been affected by the lack of new members during this difficult time. This is not a representative year.

There was a net deficit for the year of £3,875, reducing overall funds to £74,655. General reserves were maintained at £15,000 with a transfer from the development fund, which stands at £58,500 at 31 January 2022.

The bursary fund received two significant donations during the year and stands at £635. The trustees consider the merits of supporting members who would benefit from being a part of Dynamo but cannot afford the subscriptions and allocate a bursary if approved.

Report believed as true account of accounts. • Proposed by Wendy Willats

• Seconded by Mark Fletcher

Proposal that due to increasing running costs of the group Submission Fees should increase to £70 per term.

• Proposed by Wendy Willats

• Second by Mark Fletcher

Fees increase to be raised to £70/term starting in Spring 2023. Mark Fletcher to inform members.

Chair Report. Wendy Willats

I would like to thank the Trustees, Artistic Director, Session Leaders, Committee, and all volunteers for their work in supporting Dynamo during this busy year as we try to get back to some sense of normality. Having survived the pandemic the company now faces the challenges of rebuilding the group, both in terms of members and volunteer helpers, without whom we will need to limit the productions we are able to perform. We remain committed to providing the members with exciting and diverse opportunities to perform.

Due to the need to postpone the January 2022 Christmas show, we have had a very busy year with 2 full cast shows as well as the normal summer production and sixth form show. After a successful Shield production, we were straight into the postponed production of Oliver. The production was relocated to St Faiths Church at Easter. This was a wonderful location, and we are very grateful to all the members of the church who relocated to enable us to use the space for a whole week over the busy Easter period. Re-staging the production in such a different location had its challenges and required a lot of man hours to redesign the set and lighting within the church. This did put a strain on the limited number of volunteers that remained with the group. This is an issue that the group will need to address if we are to continue to put on interesting and complex productions. We are lucky to have several ex-members willing to return to the group as adult helpers. Assigns not only with direction, dance and music but also with the backstage roles of publicity and stage management.

The company have taken on the space vacated by St Faiths charity shop, under a memorandum of understanding. This is a dedicated space for the company and whilst the space will need developing, it is a major step towards the development of a Technical Group for young people who wish to be involved in the backstage activities in the theatre. This is to be funded by the Development Fund and eventually by subscription from the Technical Group. The Trustees recognise the need to fund raise to fully develop this space. It is a very exciting opportunity to expand the group. Whilst the building will always be officially known as The Coach House, we have dedicated the space to the memory of Mo Whiting, a founding member of Dynamos who sadly passed away during the pandemic. The space will be known as Mo's House.

We are grateful for the support of The Pallant Centre during normal sessions, rehearsals and during production week. The group continue to be one of the partner groups at The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre where the sixth form show is performed each year. Once again, the senior secWon, Dynasty, formed in 2011 has not been active during the year but we are still hopeful that this can be restarted at a future date.

Artistic Director. Andrew Bowker

The last year has been a direct result stemming from Covid issues which resulted in the postponement of Oliver. This resulted in a the group suffering some financial loss and stress on the company as a whole, including members. We were fortunate that St. Faiths church enabled us to perform Oliver in the church in April. However, due to changes in venue and show timings a strain was put in helpers and a general lower amount of support was evident. Therefore moving into the summer term it was decided to do a workshop production of The Little Match Girl directed by a senior member of the company, Ryan Rock. It was important for us to do a production of some description so as not to lose our performance slot week. The show was a success with a promenade through our property but suffered low attendance numbers. Our sixth form production allowed our senior members to perform at the Spring in Sherwood a Robin Hood tale. Members were able to utilise rehearsal space in Mo's house to save on hire expenses at The Spring. Mo's house is the old Coach House that we have renamed in honour of the late Mo Whiting. Partnership with the Spring remains positive. We were also able to utilise Mo's house for a Halloween haunted house walk fund raiser which was a success. October brought us the return of the London trip where we were lucky enough to have a meet and greet with Gary Jordan, a DYT ex member, who is performing in the Lion King.

We have suffered in memberships since covid which has resulted in changing how we go about recruiting new members. We held a successful recruitment open session which was a

great success. We have noticed that adult helpers have decreased in recent as people seem less inclined to volunteer time to the group particularly during shows. However, we have a solid group of a few adults who give lots of time over many years. It has been difficult to accept the big shoes that need filling if the hero's that we have lost or have left us in recent years. However, we have formed a Steering group, chaired by Holly, to help run DYT and aid the group to move forward. Many thanks to Mary for dedication to the group. Major thanks to Wendy for dedicated efforts as Chair and Treasurer.

Election of officers

Secretary Holly Jordan-Norris is stepping down. No nominations given for role. To be discussed at next Trustee meeting.

Trustees. Alex Booth stepping down Retirement of Trustees by rotation • Andrew Bowker • Linda Stimpson

Both nominated as trustees by Wendy Willats Seconded by Fritz Simpson Nomination for Mark Fletcher to join Trustees by Wendy Willats Seconded by Tricia Roberts. All in favour.

Meeting concluded 19:15