

Whetstone Drama Group – AGM May 17th 2017

Present

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

Mel Wale, Sandra Sutcliffe, Paul Lawrence, Margaret Brombley, Hazel Sharpe, Carrie Peters, Louisa Cohen, Jean Warner, Ben Thomas John Freer, Kate Holyland, Peter Tovey, Diane Todd and Martin Peters.

Apologies

Charlotte Stokes, Sue Wale, Bob Christer, Amy Christer, Graham Muddimer, Graham Ward, Emma Lawrence, Richard Sutcliffe, Spencer Greasley, Alan Wilson, Chris Brookes, Norma Lawrence, Bernard Warner, Penny Freer and, Kaila Handley,

Welcome and introductions

As Chair, Carl Smith opened and welcomed all to the meeting. Carl then read through his annual report. It has been a successful year for the group in all aspects. We are in a healthy position financially with good reserves. Successful productions directed by Paul, Sandra and Carrie have been the highlights of the year. The Youth group continues to prosper with productions undertaken by Sandra and Norma. Our Murder Mystery productions under the leadership of Sandra continue and grow in popularity. Carl underlined the good position the group is in but stressed the need to make sure we have a good plan for the future. We have therefore compiled a Business Plan which includes finance, a revised constitution, ideas for grant bids, ideas for improving and developing our resources and equipment.

Carl gave a special tribute to George Clarke who sadly passed away earlier this year. George was of course the founder member of the group and will be fondly remembered for all his work and love of drama that he gave to Whetstone Drama Group over many years. There will be a tribute to George in the programme for the next play.

Minutes of last meeting

Jon Sutcliffe read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 11/5/16. All agreed these as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Business Plan/ Charitable Status

Carl and Steve presented the **Business Plan**. A new constitution has been drawn up. In discussion it was agreed we purchase an additional identical container. Martin

Peters stressed the importance of an upgrade to our lighting system. Looking at our present financial situation this should not be an issue.

Charitable Status – it has been agreed through committee to pursue this possibility. Steve and Carl spoke of the advantages and possible disadvantages of adopting Charitable Status. On the plus side we would be able to apply and access more grants thus improving our financial situation. A disadvantage could possibly be more formal administration of our structure. Initially committee members have expressed mixed opinions. John Freer asked if the committee would be subject to legal liabilities if there were any difficulties? A joining fee was discussed – this is only £25. It was agreed that the committee needs to make a decision so further work is needed.

Finance

- Steve Cutler provided a detailed update to the group on the current financial position as at 30/04/17.
- Current Account - £6783 with a profit last year of £2069.
- Steve gave out detail breakdowns of play costs for last year.
- It was agreed that annual subscriptions remain at £15.

Election of committee members

Full committee members are presently in post until May 2017. The present committee are prepared to continue for a further three years and as no further interest was shown it was agreed they are therefore duly elected until 2020. Carl, Jon and Steve are happy to continue as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Planned productions

- Youth productions September 1st and 2nd. Norma a play involving 9 older members and Sandra a play with 20+ younger members. A buffet will be served. There could be a third night? Hazel and Diane will help with the food.
- October play produced by Carrie. Play to be decided.
- Christmas Show to be produced by Carl – December 6/7/8/9. JW asked for more help with the food for this show.
- 2018 Sandra to produce a play in May.

NANDA

June 16th in Nottingham. Meal is £28.50 a head. Carl, Martin, Carrie, Spencer, Ben and Steve have expressed interest. The cheque has to be sent to the organiser by next Wednesday. Please see Sandra tonight to confirm attendance.

Any Other Business

- Chris Brookes is producing and organising a series of Murder Mysteries on the Shackerstone Railway. Cost is £50 a head including a meal. Date is June 10th and Sandra, Jon, Norma, Jean and family have already booked. See Sandra if interested. There is also one booked for October.
- Chris is appearing at the Curve in Mid- Summer Night's Dream. We plan to make a group booking. See Sandra if interested and the date is Friday August 11th.
- Paul and Julie have kindly offered to host a barbeque on July 15th 7 30pm. Jean asked if we could ensure members who are not on email are contacted re these sort of events. This was agreed.
- Steve informed the meeting that online ticket sales are going well. We still retain the dual ticket sale system. Mel stressed the need for more members to push ticket sales to keep our audiences healthy.

Date of next AGM meeting

Tuesday May 15th 2018 at 8pm at The Parish Centre

Minutes agreed
Carl Smith – Chair

Date

