

## Whetstone Drama Group – AGM May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018

### ***Present***

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

Mel Wale, Sandra Sutcliffe, Paul Lawrence, Hazel Sharpe, Carrie Peters, Ben Thomas John Freer, Penny Freer, Peter Tovey, Diane Todd, Martin Peters, Sue Wale, Norma Lawrence, Graham Ward, Graham Muddimer, Amie Davies, Charlotte Stokes, Nicola Voyle, Heather Stokes, Alan Wilson, Spencer Greasley, Val Morgan, Patricia Kenyon and Ben Love.

### ***Apologies***

Bob Christer, Amy Christer, Richard Sutcliffe, Louisa Cohen, Peter James, Margaret Brombley, Kate Holyland, Jean Warner, Bernard Warner 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 Paul, Sandra and Carrie have been the highlights of the year as well as the successful Christmas Show directed by Carl. Our 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. Twenty one members of the group have been involved in our Murder Mysteries over the last year. Carl then distributed and read through our Business Plan which includes finance, a revised constitution, a summary of the last year's productions, ideas for grant bids and ideas for improving and developing our resources and equipment. The recent purchase of over £4000 of new lighting equipment is and will be a real bonus for all our productions.

### ***Minutes of last meeting***

Jon Sutcliffe read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 17/5/17. All agreed these as a true record of the meeting.

### ***Matters arising from the minutes***

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### ***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. Paul Lawrence indicated he wished to step down. Paul was thanked for his many years of loyal service on the committee. After asking for volunteers for a new committee member the decision was made for Graham Muddimer to be a full committee member with voting rights. Carl, Jon and Steve are happy to continue as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Carl and Steve asked if an additional role of cashier to help out Steve could be organised. Alan Wilson kindly agreed to perform this role.

### ***Planned productions***

- Youth productions September 19th-22<sup>nd</sup>. The Wizard of Oz directed by Ben Thomas.
- November play produced by Mel. -The Actress.
- May 2019 – The Blitz Club directed by Carrie
- December 2019 Christmas Show directed by Carl. Carl asked for more time to prepare for this show as last preparation time was inadequate.
- Murder Mysteries – Steve has written a new one ready for September. A large cast but flexibility and scope for more interchangeable roles.
- Sandra asked if we could consider entering in the One Act Play Festival. This will be considered through committee.

### ***NANDA***

June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Nottingham. Meal is £30 a head. Carl, Sandra, Ben, Steve, Kate, and Nicky have expressed interest. Please see Sandra tonight to confirm attendance. Numbers have to be in by May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### ***Any Other Business***

- The purchase of the new container in November 2017 has caused big problems. Doors not fitting and closing have resulted in constant dialogue between Steve and the suppliers. We received an initial grant for the container for £800. The very good news is thanks to Steve it will be collected and we will receive a full refund. Jon asked if when we purchase the replacement Graham and Graham could with Steve be the leading decision makers.
- The question of putting on performances on Wednesday evenings was discussed. There were many varied opinions. In summary it was decided the decision would be left to the director of the particular play .Mel again asked us to keep plugging ticket sales to keep our audiences up .Spencer asked if there was a pattern of ticket sales relating to when plays were put on. Steve replied there did not seem to be any correlation.
- URC related issues. We are trying to work as closely with the URC as possible. Carl and Steve spoke of the possible grants we can apply for to improve aspects of the building and the entrance walkway. John Freer suggested it might be prudent to consider other venues if there were issue with the URC in future.
- Spencer offered to sell the old lighting system. This was agreed although Paul asked if certain items of value and purpose could be left.
- Ben suggested the question of Charitable Status be pursued. This was agreed through committee.
- Sandra asked for a “bottoming out” session to be held this summer to sort out costumes. This was agreed and Sandra will arrange.
- The question of membership costs was discussed at length. Decisions were: £15 for acting members and £5 for non- acting members. Youth Group members £5. Acting members will purchase their play books.

Minutes agreed  
Carl Smith – Chair

Date