

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Committee of The Rococo Players
Held at 7.30 on Friday 18 February 2022 at the WI Hall, Prestbury, Cheltenham

Present: Antoinette Wilson (AW), John Herring (JH), Barry Page (BP), Pat Amphlett, Henry Amphlett, Dave Bridges, Hannah Galliers, Chris Moore, Dave Mumford, Holly Petrova, Jasmine Reynolds, Samantha Swinford, Sarah Wilman, Adam Wright

Apologies for absence: Jason Blackburn, Marian Ivens, Robin Lock, Julie Nicholson, Katie Preedy, David Singer, Ellie Wilson

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting (held on 23 January 2020)

There had been no AGM in 2021 because of the pandemic restrictions. Copies of the minutes for the last AGM, in January 2020, had been made available in advance on the group's website, and copies were distributed for the reference of those attending.

There was one point arising from the minutes:

Dave Mumford asked if the proposal from Croome Park (NT) for us to devise and present a performance about the history of the house, based on the letters of the Coventry family held in their archive, had been followed up. BP explained that, due to the likely work involved, and the effects of the pandemic, the idea had not been progressed. However, this is something that we could follow up again in the future, if anyone was interested.

Proposal to accept the minutes was made by Dave Bridges, seconded by Dave Mumford. All were in favour.

Amendments to the Rococo Players Constitution

JH outlined the proposed amendments to the group's Constitution, as discussed by the committee. Copies of the Constitution, with proposed changes highlighted, were distributed for the reference of those attending. JH explained the two main changes that were proposed:

- The move from regular paid membership of the group to 'general membership', for which no fee would be payable, but a 'production fee' would be payable by those cast in a production. (Items 9 and 10)
- The procedure that would be followed if the group were to be dissolved. (Item 16)

Sarah Wilman asked what defined the Rococo Players as a group. There was a discussion about the group and how those who are interested in being involved are kept informed of our activities and plans.

AW explained that, as the group had taken the decision to avoid the pressure of staging regular productions, we aimed to maintain the coherence of the group through other activities between productions, and to strike a balance between the two. She also pointed out that the committee was very keen to be flexible in its approach, and for new committee members to bring forward new ideas.

Dave Bridges pointed out that the group's assets included lighting equipment as well as cash in the bank.

Dave Mumford asked for clarification about Item 5 in the Constitution, regarding the number of committee members and the number of Officer's roles. JH confirmed that two of the Officer roles may be combined.

Proposal to accept the amendments to the Constitution was made by JH, seconded by Dave Mumford. All were in favour.

Treasurer's Report

JH outlined the main points in his report and financial summary, which covered the financial years 2020 and 2021, due to the restrictions of the pandemic. It was pointed out that, although the financial summary for 2021 indicated a loss of £1,200.00, this was in fact because the ticket revenue was not received from the two venues until January 2022. After receipt of these two payments, the production of *Twelfth Night* in Nov/Dec 2021 had shown a healthy profit of £2,100.00.

The comparative costs and revenues for both the venues for *Twelfth Night* were explained. AW explained that we had saved a significant amount on production costs by sourcing many of the costumes from Cotswold Costumes in Nailsworth, rather than from Bristol Costume Services.

The group's financial situation had therefore improved significantly over the last two years, with the current bank balance (£3429.00) being £1,543.00 higher than the opening balance in 2020.

JH indicated his willingness to continue in the role of Treasurer, if the committee and group wished him to do so, and thanked them for their continued support.

Proposal to accept the report was made by Hannah Galliers, seconded by Sarah Wilman.

Chair's Report

AW outlined the progress of our recent production of *Twelfth Night* over the last two years, with the unforeseen challenges due to the pandemic, from the auditions in March 2020 to the performances in November/December 2021.

The dedication of the talented cast was acknowledged, with special thanks and tribute to Jason Blackburn, who stepped into a leading role with just two weeks to go to the first night. Thanks was given to all those involved in the production who had so capably supported the cast: John Herring for set construction and stage management, Dave Bridges for lighting, Chris Moore for prompting, Pat and Henry Amphlett for props and to Pat Amphlett in her role as director's assistant.

The committee members (John, Barry, Adam, Katie and Jaz) were thanked for their hard work throughout, which had made the production possible under difficult circumstances. Jaz Reynolds, who is stepping down from the committee, was thanked for all she had done in developing the group's publicity and communications so successfully in recent years.

After the restrictions of the last two years, and with the momentum following the success of *Twelfth Night*, it was felt that we should build on that and start to plan for the future. With exciting ideas and proposals for future productions for the new committee to consider, we will be aiming to make an announcement about our plans as soon as possible within the next few weeks.

Election of Officers for 2022

Antoinette Wilson has agreed to remain as Chair

John Herring has agreed to remain as Treasurer and Vice-Chairman.

Barry Page has agreed to remain as Secretary.

Adam Wright and **Katie Preedy** have agreed to stand again as committee members.

Hannah Galliers volunteered to join the committee. Proposed by Adam Wright and seconded by John Herring.

Proposed by Henry Amphlett and seconded by Sarah Wilman that these should be elected to serve as the committee in 2022. All in favour.

Any Other Business

Chris Moore thanked AW for her hard work and dedication to Rococo, especially in the last two years, and her significant contribution to the success of *Twelfth Night*.

AW said that proposals had been invited and received from potential directors. Hannah Galliers asked if was possible for the committee to share any of the ideas for future plans. AW explained the need for the new committee to have more detailed discussions about possible plays, directors, venues and performance dates before sharing any details with the membership.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.