

## Trustees of the Sinodun Players

Minutes of the 71st meeting of the Trustees held on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford at 7.30pm.

Present: N Morley, K Spence (minutes), J Utley (DC), G Wright, J Wright, J Jeskins, L Van der Vord

Action

**1. Apologies for absence**

Debi Lisburne

**2. Decisions/Discussions since last meeting not covered elsewhere**

None

**3. Minutes of 70th meeting on 8 December 2015**

Approved and ready to be uploaded to website. Signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising from 70th meeting not covered elsewhere**

Minor addition to the minutes re the assets note– the assets need careful apportionment so that depreciation can be accounted for.

**5. Items to and from the Board**

The Board asked the opinion of the Trustees about increasing cinema ticket prices and whether fundraising should be considered.

Trustees had no objection to the Board increasing the cinema prices but this should not be linked to fundraising.

Roof project – Trustees received an update on the project from J Wright who had attended the last Board meeting.

To ensure funds are used effectively, the Board is considering developing the internal gantries prior to the roof project starting, possibly during the summer shutdown.

The Board is also considering an air conditioning unit on the roof for the projection room.

Two box office staff are unhappy about a letter received from the Board. Nick Morley has passed the information on to Oliver Hemming.

Friends of the Corn Exchange will be for Corn Exchange volunteers, whether SP members or not. One major advantage of this will be that it enables a database to be set up of volunteers.

K Spence requested outstanding Board minutes.

**6. Items to and from DC:**

The Shakespeare evening is now to be held in the auditorium on 23 April, directed by D Lisburne. Trustees would like to see a budget for the show, which should be sent to them before any money is spent.

Trustees welcomed the news that Pete Smithson has been co opted to the Artistic Committee.

Changes to the Rules are being progressed. Trustees would like to ratify them at their next meeting in April for an EGM in May.

The drama committee is actively encouraging crew members for the summer production.

## 7. Constitution Updates

Tessa Hennessy has had a response from the Charity Commission that they are happy for us to widen our charitable objectives to include the building. They asked questions about extending the trustee benefits and why we had sent a full new constitution. Tessa Hennessy has gone back to them with answers and is awaiting their response. Until we receive a full response, we cannot progress plans for the EGM.

## 8. Little Theatre Guild (LTG)

N Morley met the chairman of the Market Harborough Drama Society. Their chairman provided a list of pros and cons of becoming a CIO; it was not straightforward, and the cost was higher than anticipated. They were a charity and unincorporated. They changed their constitution to limit the Trustee liability.

N Morley has emailed the chair of Thame Players (who are members of LTG, as they are relatively near to us) and is waiting for a response.

We should sent representation to their AGM in Birmingham in April which the SPs would fund.

We should put a link to LTG on our website. It was agreed that putting their logo on our publicity would risk causing a muddle. Reference to LTG could also be mentioned in our programmes. JU

## 9. Finances

Bank accounts. J Wright noted that the change to new signatories has happened.

To separate the Trustee Accounts from others at NatWest, a Small Business account is being set up at Lloyds. J Wright will chase the bank as this has not yet happened.

We also have a Nationwide account which has £10,000 from the Trustees account, originally from SP Ltd in it and it is earning good interest. It will be linked to the Lloyds account.

J Wright suggested we should consider registering SPs for VAT. Much of our income is free of VAT, but we spend on goods that we pay VAT on. It would increase the workload on the Treasurer. J Wright to investigate further whether it would be worth it. JW

Progress with moving monies from being managed by the DC to Trustees is happening slowly.

## 10. Items brought by the Chair

OCVA South and Vale Forum (free). J Utley, L Van der Vord and Julie Grimshaw will attend.

The Board are starting to update their Articles of Association. Trustees suggest that this would be a suitable time to consider changing the company's name to Corn Exchange Wallingford Community Theatre (or similar) to enable a clear distinction between the charity and limited company. The names being so similar would not be permitted if we were to be starting out now. NM

N Morley will take this formally to the Board.

The 200 club will cease after May. There is just under £2,000 in the fund. Suggestions of what it could be spent on to be sought. J Utley to take the matter to the DC. JU

Next Board meeting will be held on 21 March. L Van der Vord to attend.

**11. Any other business**

The projector and associated equipment have been donated to a film club in Reading who have taken it away and they will be using it.

**12. Date of next meeting**

18 April 2016 at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

*N. Moly*  
*18/04/16*