

MINUTES OF DENSTONE PLAYERS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 26th September 2021 at 6.00pm

1 Present: Dave Shooter, Lynn Shooter, Cavell Portman, Terry Davies, Sue Davies, Susanne Smith, Peter Smith, Viv Edwards, Gill Brown, Margaret Shermer, Jean Wright, Bob Wright, Don Stanley, Marge Stanley, Marsha Smith, Roy Smith, Hugo Marsh, Jennie Bostock, Lynsey Frampton,

Apologies: Catherine Doel, Bob & Irena Beaumont, Sandra Humphries, Lynda Kempson, Sue Allerton, Rose Cope, Ed & Rose Barker, Stephen Leake, Lizzie Butterfield.

2 Minutes of the 2019-05-19 AGM were approved and signed. Proposed T Davies Seconded J Bostock

3 Matters Arising: No matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report: The Chairman began by reporting that the Denstone Players are still the most active amateur dramatic group in East Staffordshire albeit that generally there had been very little activity during the past 18 months!

Two members had died since the last meeting – Les Humphries and Gareth Jones and will be sadly missed.

The society had not been totally inactive since the start of Covid:

- We've held five meetings since the May 2019 AGM
- A Variety Show in June
- The performance of A Case of Mistaken Identity written by Les Humphries
- The production of Cobblers - the story of the Elves and the Shoemaker

A second container had been purchased with support from ESBC (£1,000) and fitted out with shelves – thanks to all those who helped with this work and to Peter Smith for being ruthless and to Bob Wright for disposing of items surplus to requirements! The timing of the purchase had been excellent as the current price is approximately £17000 compared to our purchase price of under £3000.

A new replacement shed had been purchased with support from SCC (£400) for the toddler group – thanks to all for help given in arranging and siting this shed.

Around 40 people of all ages had attended this afternoon's audition for February 2022's production – thanks to Gill Brown for her enthusiasm and hard work with these productions and especially to Gill & Dave for writing the scripts. Thanks also to Margaret Shermer for assisting and Viv Edwards for implementing the child protection procedures.

'Big Nose- the adventures of Pinocchio' will be our 59th production and promises to be a great success.

5 Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported the 2020/21 accounts as follows:

Current Status:	Current Account	£ 3052.05
	Savings Account	£ 856.57
	Cash Account	£ 449.57
	Total	£ 4358.19

Each of the productions in this period had been profitable and figures were as follows:

Variety Show 2019	£ 610.72
A Case of Mistaken Identity	£ 693.06
Cobblers	£1228.98

These figures took into account miscellaneous costs totalling a deficit of £3773.54.

A £260 insurance premium would need to be paid before the end of 2021 and although no receipts were expected it would still leave the society in a strong viable situation.

Thanks to Lynda Kempson for auditing the accounts.

R Smith proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Terry Davies and agreed by all.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for her hard work keeping the books in order.

6 Social Report: Sue Davies reported that there was little to report due to the various lockdowns and restrictions resulting from the Covid pandemic.

It was planned that a Christmas meal would be organised at a venue yet to be decided. Possible options include The Tavern, Uttoxeter Golf Club and The Queens at Freehay.

In general, people are still nervous about attending venues such as theatres where a large number of people gather.

7 Election of Officers:

	Elected:	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Chair	D Shooter	G Brown	M Smith
Vice Chair	T Davies	L Shooter	G Brown
Secretary	H Marsh	Volunteered as no other candidate	
Additional Bank Signatory		M Shermer volunteered	
Treasurer	L Shooter	T Davies	M Shermer
H & S Officer	S Leake	G Brown	P Smith
Child Protection Officer	V Edwards	T Davies	S Smith
Social Secretary	S Davies	R Smith	M Stanley
Publicity Officer	P Smith	T Davies	V Edwards
V Hall Rep'	D Shooter		
	(Several other members of the D Players are also on the Village Hall committee)		
Auditor	Lynda Kempson	In her absence	

The Chairman thanked the retiring Secretary Cavell Portman for his sterling work and support over many years.

8 Changes to the Constitution: The Chairman proposed that the two levels of membership – Full Paid Member and Temporary Member be combined in a single type “Full Membership” with a membership fee of £5.

After an amount of discussion, it was put to the vote and the proposal was carried unanimously.

9 Future Productions:

Gill Brown advised that she was thrilled that so many people had attended this afternoon's audition for the next production Big Nose to be performed during half term week in February 2022.

The matter of ticket prices was raised and it was agreed by all that there should be an increase – adult tickets to £10 and children up to and including 16 years of age to £5.

T Davies pointed out that this increase would be necessary as it was likely that audience numbers would need to be reduced with possible financial implications.

It is planned that two one act plays would be performed in May 2022, Marge Stanley directing 'Lock Down in Little Grimley' and Terry Davies directing 'Guess Who's Coming to Tea?'

A Variety Show to be performed in Autumn 2022.

10 AOB:

- a) Jennie Bostock raised the matter of insurance cover for parents who helped out on the performance nights and who were not members of the Denstone Players. It was agreed that these helpers should become full members and pay the membership fee of £5.
- b) Peter Smith advised that a grant from the Arts Council may be available to help with costs of a first production. He will investigate and advise.
- c) The Treasurer raised the matter of a card reader for the bar as many people now expected to be able to pay by card. After some discussion it was agreed that a card reader should be purchased with the option to pay by card or with cash at the bar. Raffle tickets would only be sold for cash. This will be stated on posters and tickets.
- d) The Chairman and Treasurer will discuss with Rupert Evans at Denstone Hall Farm Shop the matter of the Farm Shop selling tickets and ways of keeping the accounts separate.
- e) MADS will be staging a Variety Show on 26th and 27th November which may be suitable for a Players group outing.

11 Date of the next Committee Meeting: Sunday 5th December at 4.00pm before rehearsals.

12 Date of the next AGM: Sunday 15th May 2022 at 6 pm in Denstone Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 7.00pm.

Signed----- Date-----