

STABLES THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE

Minutes of the meeting of the COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

held by video link on Tuesday 28th July 2020

PRESENT: Neil Sellman (Chairman), Harriet Davey (Hon. Secretary),
Henri Hayler (Hon. Treasurer), Cliff Brooker, David Harding, Sue Dengate Victoria Fay, Gill Jenks, Tim Pearce, Mike Willard.

APOLOGIES:

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2020 were approved by the Council and signed by the Secretary on behalf of the Chairman.

2. Matter Arising:

3. Departmental Reports:

Chairman/PAG – Neil Sellman

a) Filming a virtual tour of the Theatre has taken place; Barbara Flynn provided the introduction. Five bedtime stories have been filmed - both these items will be available on the Carnival website on 3rd August and after that on the Stables' website.

b) It was agreed that we should open the bar and monitor how things run.

c) A Reduced Shakespeare Festival is being planned to take place in the garden of the Theatre during the first week of September.

d) Channel 4 have been to photograph the Theatre and are interested in using it as a filming location.

e) David Glass would like to run workshops at the Theatre during week beginning 21st September.

ACTION: Find out how many people would be involved (NS).

f) Neil has met Doon Mackitchan who would like to stage a show, with others, consisting of monologues – to be filmed at the Theatre.

Technical Equipment/Customers

Secretary/Membership – Harriet Davey

a) All those people who bought tickets for cancelled shows have now been contacted - refunds and vouchers have been made and donations received.

Treasurer - Henri Hayler

a) The Treasurer explained the new system being considered for the collection of direct debits. This would be much safer and easier and safer than the present system.

ACTION: All members to be contacted informing them of this change (**HH/HD**).

b) The Treasurer explained the proposal that we increase membership fees to £20 per annum, the fees to be collected every six months ie. £10.

c) There was a discussion on raising membership prices at the present time. Suggestions were made re. leaving the increase until the Theatre is up and running normally, a free period to thank members and membership cards entitling members to discounts and benefits.

ACTION: To be discussed at the next meeting.

d) From the beginning of 2021 we will be using a new version of TicketSolve which will be much easier to manage.

e) The proposal that Hastings Old Town businesses advertise in our programmes and we will give a 5% discount to them was discussed.

f) The Treasurer is waiting for replies in response to our applications for grants/Bounce-back loan/support package etc. etc.

House/Grounds/Licencing – Mike Willard

a) There have been several requests for people to park cars in the Theatre carpark. It was agreed that this might be possible on a limited basis during the present time, donations to be made to the Theatre.

b) Direct debits for Roebuck Surgery's doctors who park their cars in our car park have failed for several months running and we have had no response to emails and phone calls.

ACTION: Mike Willard to call in to the Surgery (**HD/MW**).

Legal Advice – David Harding

a) The date of the Extraordinary General Meeting on 28th September was discussed.

ACTION: To be discussed again at the next Council Meeting.

Printing and Design – Cliff Brooker

Marketing – Tim Pearce

Heads of Departments/Archives – Sue Dengate

a) The Archives department is trying to locate a copy of the second half of the DVD "A History of the Stables Theatre"

Backstage – Gill Jenks

a) Redecorating the auditorium by the backstage team was discussed, the Council to decide on the colour scheme

ACTION: Three quotes for supplies to be obtained; **(MW)**.

b) A charity in Lewes has offered to donate stage lights to the Theatre.

ACTION: Discuss with Frank Jenks **(GJ)**.

Events – Victoria Fay

4. Any Other Business:

a) **Covid 19** - It was agreed that we should follow official advice and after cleaning close the Theatre for 72 hours before another event. There will be certain areas that will be closed to the public.

ACTION: Government website to be checked for current rules on numbers etc. **(NS)**.

ACTION: Discuss the use of thermometers at the next meeting.

ACTION: Enquiries to be made re. perspex dividers/barriers **(CB)**.

ACTION: Notices giving advice/instructions to the public to be produced for use around the building **(CB)**.

b) It was agreed that future Council meetings will be held at the Theatre as soon as it is possible.

c) **Gardening Group:** We have received a donation of £110 to the Gardening Group; it was agreed to use this to purchase a lawn mower. Numbers in the Group have risen from 3 to 11.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.52pm.

The next meeting of the Council of Management will be held on Tuesday 25th August 2020 at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN:

Date: