

## **Torrington Players Committee Meeting 07.08.2013 at the Conservative Club.**

### **The meeting was attended by :**

Jean Evans Loude ( Chairman), Frank Allman, Neil Fordham, Bill Grainger Sara Pruce, Christine Spry, Pauline Allen ( Min. Sec.).

### **Apologies**

Andrea Allman, Christine Keeley.

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

Written minutes were not available at this time. Jean E.L. went through the main points which included the legacy left to the players by June Dolan. Some of the legacy will sponsor a seat at The Plough with the words "Torrington Players Past and Present", engraved on a small plaque for a cost of £300. Jean E.L. and Christine S. will ensure the project is completed. All agreed.

### **Autumn Production**

Sara P. (Director) updated the committee. Matthew Cann has been selected as a possible designer and she also has a construction team and offers of help for the production. After a successful reading a date for auditions has been set and placed on the web site.

Sara accepted that there was strong language and that the "c" word was upsetting many people, in which case she agrees to remove this word.

Sara explained that the author has included every word for a special reason, highlighting the two classes of people and using authentic language. Therefore we should be true to the authors intentions and Sara does not want to "water it down".

Sara continued that in her view this would be an opportunity for the Players to move forward, to appeal to a different audience and to encourage membership to the society with a wider age span.

Jean E.L. reiterated that at the A.G.M. she had asked that members spoke to any of the committee about any reservations they may have about the production. No one specifically made any major concerns that evening. Later some people had spoken to her with concerns about the language. Christine K. spoke to people in the town, but no other committee member had been contacted.

Then an e-mail from Tony Easton was read by Jean E.L. saying he would send a copy of this e-mail to all the members to share his views of the unacceptable language in the script of "Female Transport". He would then call an Extraordinary Annual General Meeting to change the choice of the Autumn Production for 2013.

After full and frank discussions Neil F. Proposed and Bill G. seconded that the committee should continue with this production, all agreed.

Bill G. suggested that he should send a newsletter giving the views of the committee. All agreed.

### **Chairman's Report**

Items already discussed and in these minutes.

### **Financial Report**

Christine S. confirmed that the accounts were being audited by Mike Ferry, but there were still some outstanding invoices. A new bank card has been ordered, this allows easier payment from purchases on the web. The previous card was taken by the A.T.M. machine. It was agreed that a small float should be retained by the Treasurer for individual transactions. The bank account at this date was £5,881.77.

Thanks was given to Christine for the accounts.

### **Update of Oh what a lovely war!**

Jean E.L. has been in touch with Ian Goodenough who is unable to accept the position of director of the production, but would willingly mentor anyone from the Players or ask members from other societies.

We were reminded that at the A.G.M. it was agreed to finance the production up to £4,000. After discussions it was agreed that Jean E.L. should contact Ian G. to try and obtain a director. Bill G. has obtained a license from Samuel French for 5 nights beginning on 11.11.2014, which would be £100 a night or 15% of the gross takings whichever is the greater. This would mean an increase on ticket prices probably to £10. He suggested that we renegotiate the hiring charges with The Plough. A discussion to include a charity night ensued, but this was deferred to the next meeting. All agreed that this production should go forward in Nov. 2014 and a deposit for the license should be made. Jean E.L. suggested that a small sub-committee should be formed to keep the momentum going.

### **Future Events**

The Spring production should be considered when this Autumn production has been finalised.

### **A.O.B.**

Telephone contacts with the membership :- To generally keep in touch with the membership it was decided to resume the practise where committee members would be responsible in contacting a group of members to remind them of events. A list will be drawn up at the next meeting.

Storage :- Jean E.L. would contact Ian to liaise with Steve and Tony to tidy the storage shed.

Quiz night;- Bill G. will contact Carol to see if she would arrange a quiz evening at Taddiport Village Hall for a social evening at the end of Sept. or beginning of Oct.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

Date of next meeting :- Wed. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30 at the Conservative Club.