

Minutes of the 35th A.G.M. of The Torrington Players held at The Plough Gallery on Wednesday 15th July 2015

Present: Jean Evans Loude (Chair), Christine Spry (Treasurer), David Rowe (President)
Pauline Allen (Min. Sec.), Kath Childs, Jean Dishington, Mike Dishington, Tony Easton, Jo Fallaize,
Bill Grainger, Steve Puttick, Joyce Ridgwell, Hilary Taylor, Peter Villiers.

1. Welcome- Jean E.L. welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies- Stef Easton, Richard Pitt, Carol Ryan, Ros and John Wehner.

3. Minutes of the A.G.M. held 17. 07.2014-

Proposed by David Rowe

Seconded by Bill Grainger

All agreed and they were signed.

4 Matters Arising

2, Treasurers Report showed a loss of £1522.38, but this had included £600 for the prepayment for the license of 'Oh! What a lovely War', therefore reducing the percentage of the losses from 'Female Transport' and 'Talking Heads'.

5. Chairs Report –Jean E.L.

Jean reported that the Torrington Players had another exciting and successful year with two Plough productions and one touring production.

O.W.A.L.W. was well received by the audiences and the N.O.D.A. representative.

The schools venture on the Thurs. evening was something different. This was well attended and included some people who had never been to The Plough before and was most enjoyable.

It was good to see The Plough staff and volunteers joining in with the spirit when we turned the box office into a dugout and the bar into a trench.

The exhibition of memorabilia from T.P's and members of the public were fascinating and informative, together with the items from the Cobbaton Combat and other museums. The local Primary Schools also made a colourful contribution to this superb and interesting display .

Thanks should also be given to many non-members who gave help in a whole variety of ways.

The British Legion was invited to have a bucket collection in the foyer before each performance but to date we have not been informed of the amount collected.

'When Icicles Hang by the Wall', this included some members of long standing, a new member and a guest musician! Some performances had to be cancelled but this led to a 'revival' performance at Taddipport Village Hall for members and friends which was much enjoyed.

Steve Puttick a new director made his debut with our Spring production of 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'. This drew in some lapsed members and several new members including one of limited mobility which we believe was a first for The Plough. This was extremely well received and resulted in a superb review from N.O.D.A. with praise for the whole cast and director. An off shoot from this production was that the charity 'Clarity' which deals with counselling for people with mental health issues, would like the T.P's to help make a video to enhance their profile. Steve P. is awaiting more details. This is another example of the T.P's moving into the community.

We have now begun the Autumn production of 'The Winter's Tale', directed by Ros Wehner who is highly experienced and joined the T.Ps for O.W.A.L.W. Ros has already held two workshops which were well attended and two production meetings.

The storage area at the Torridge Vale Social Club is no longer available and Jean E.L, Ian and Steve removed our items and they are now in Jeans barn. If anyone knows of a more suitable place especially for the archive it would be appreciated.

Thanks to Bill for organising the quizzes.

6 Treasure's Report

Christine S. informed the meeting that the accounts had been audited by Mike Ferry, for which he was duly thanked.

A breakdown of the accounts was presented and showed that:-

O.W.A.L.W. made a profit of £286.14 which was excellent as the production had encountered a high expenditure but also a good income.

'Talking Heads' had made a small loss of £103.50

'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest' made a good profit of £414.66

'Icicles' made a profit of £66.

It should be noted that a prepayment towards the license fee for O.W.A.L.W. of £600 was taken from last year's General Account.

The Account Balance at 15.07.2015 is £5392.25

All agreed that these accounts should be accepted.

A vote of thanks was given to Christine for these accounts and for all her hard work as Treasurer over the past few years, but as from this time she would be standing down from this post.

7 Our Constitution

An amended Constitution was presented to the meeting as the present document was last reviewed 01.08.2006. Discussion followed where Tony E. queried that the Chairperson should have a second casting vote in the event of a tie of an elected matter.

Mike D. raised the point in the wording of 'dramatic arts' in the objective of the society and suggested a change to 'performing arts'.

After further discussion it was proposed by Peter Villiers and seconded by Jo Falliaze that this amended constitution should be accepted, all agreed.

8 Election of President

David Rowe was nominated by members of the committee and it was agreed unanimously that David should continue as President of the T.P.'s and was thanked for his contributions over the past year.

9 Election of Officers

Chair- Jean Evans Loude proposed by Steve Puttick, seconded by Peter Villiers

Treasurer- Mike Dishington proposed by Kathy Childs, seconded by Peter Villiers

Min.Sec.- Pauline Allen proposed by Jo Falliaze, seconded by Joyce Ridgwell

All agreed and the officers were duly elected.

Committee members nominated by the officers

Jean Dishington, Bill Grainger, Christine Spry, Hilary Taylor.

All agreed and the committee was duly elected.

10 A.O.B.

A Website) : updating –Steve P's friend Simon will design and update our present website and train designated members to update the site regularly as Ron is no longer involved with the T.P's. The members need to provide information for the site. The old domain will be kept alive so that we do not have to pay for a new one.

After discussion Tony E. proposed and Steve P. seconded that the committee should discuss the information that is needed on the website and all the members will be consulted and given a specific time to respond e.g. one month with their ideas for the creation of a new website. All agreed.

B) The Future of the T.P's

Ian Goodenough from N.O.D.A. had agreed to talk to members about new ideas such as productions at village halls, working within the community and arranging a group to be responsible for publicity for productions. Unfortunately Ian G. has resigned from N.O.D.A. due to lack of interest from local groups, but he is still willing to work with the T.P's. Jean E.L. will contact Ian to make a date for a meeting where all members will be invited to discuss relevant issues.

The meeting ended at 8.25p.m. and was followed by refreshment and entertainment arranged by Bill G.

Thanks was given to all those who attended and contributed to the meeting.