



**THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB OF STRATFORD UPON AVON
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2018**

Held at the Shakespeare Institute, Church St., Stratford upon Avon on Tuesday, 9th October 2018

Minutes

Approximately 40 persons attended.

1. Election of Chair for the AGM.

Susan Brock was proposed by Roger Taylor, seconded by Sylvia Morris and elected unanimously.

2. Apologies for absence: Coreen Turner, Jenny Smith, Jill Ashley-Smith.

3. Minutes of the last AGM (10 October 2017)

These had been circulated to members with subscription reminders and were available on the Club website. They were unanimously accepted as a correct record by a show of hands.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

- a. **Proposed new partnership with local secondary schools:** The Chair reported that a trial was planned with A-level students at Stratford College, Problems included changes to the curriculum and staff at the College, matching the theatre visit to the curriculum, transport, teacher buy-in. After much discussion by the Committee it was agreed that Stratford schools were well provided for but that to spread the net more widely required more administrative time than was available. It had been agreed by the Committee to consider ideas with the the objective of increasing publicity for the Club outside the formal education structure and exploring institutional connections with the University of Warwick for involvement with Coventry schools as part of the City of Culture programme.
- b. **Fees:** The Chair reported that Visitors' fees had been raised to £5 from October 2018 but ambiguity in the minutes meant that the rise in annual subscriptions would not take effect until October 2019.
- c. The **revised club rules** agreed at the last AGM were available on the Club website. Paper copies could be collected from the Secretary.

5. Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer Christine Walsh circulated copies of the 2018 and 2017 accounts (attached). The bank balance stood at £3346.98. There was a question about the payment for an increase in cash floats. This was required by the auditors and would show as a credit in due course. The Chair proposed the acceptance of the accounts, seconded by Roger Taylor, and passed unanimously.

6. Election of Honorary Treasurer.

Ms Christine Walsh was willing to stand again. The Chair proposed her election, seconded by Linda Butland, and passed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Honorary Accountant.

The Chair proposed that H.L. Barnes be asked to continue in this role, seconded by Deb Follett, and passed unanimously. The Chair asked the Treasurer to send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Club.

8. Election of President 2018/19

The Chair reported that Ms Emma Rice, formerly Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe, has been approached to stand as President for the coming season and has agreed to serve, subject to election. She proposed her as President, seconded by Roger Taylor, passed unanimously.

9. Election of Administrative Secretary.

The Chair reported that Susan Brock has tendered her resignation as Administrative Secretary. The Committee recommended the election of Committee member, Mrs Sylvia Morris, to the post. She proposed her as Administrative Secretary, seconded by Christine Walsh and accepted unanimously.

10. Election of the Committee.

The Chair reported that the Club rules allowed a maximum of ten Committee members plus Secretary and Treasurer. Last year's Committee comprising of nine members was as follows: Janet Anslow, Mary Reardon, Eileen Geldard, Paul Prescott, Sandra MacDonald, Melissa Mailer-Yates, Sylvia Morris, Deb Follett and Roger Taylor. Deb Follett had given notice of her wish to retire from the Committee. Paul Prescott requested a sabbatical for the 2018/9 season as he would be in Japan for the remainder of 2018. All other committee members were willing to stand again. The Chair asked if members were willing to approve their re-election en bloc? They were re-elected unanimously.

There were two vacancies by virtue of the retirement of Deb Follett and the election of Sylvia Morris to Secretary. Susan Brock had been nominated as a member of the Committee by Christine Walsh, seconded by Sylvia Morris. She was elected unanimously.

As no other formal nominations had been received the Chair asked members if anyone was interested in joining the Committee. Helen Hargest offered and, as the due procedure for nomination could not be followed, was co-opted on to the Committee for 2018-9.

11. Report on programme for the 2018/9 season by the Programme Secretary.

The Chair reported on behalf of the Programme Secretary on the programme for 2018-9 (attached).

12. Report on Club activities 2017/8 by the Administrative Secretary.

See report attached.

13. **2018/9 Raffle.** It was agreed to forgo the raffle in 2019 as no one was willing to organise it.

14. Any other Business

- a. **Adoption of new branding:** The Chair reported that a new logo had been designed by Melissa Mailer-Yates, incorporating Shakespeare's signature and the quill used as a temporary logo since 2015 to replace Shakespeare's coat of arms. This would appear on all pages of the website in due course
- b. **Role of Club President:** Professor Lindsay MacDonald asked that the President should be strongly encouraged to be more involved with the Club, to promote it and to have greater visibility at public events such as the Birthday celebrations.
- c. **Website:** the Club has not yet complied with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) by asking all members of the Club mailing lists to confirm their permission for the Club to hold their details. However all members who used email would be contacted shortly.
- d. **Volunteers.** The Chair called for members to volunteer for a variety of light duties, including welcoming visitors at the door, keeping statistics of audience numbers, setting up equipment, etc. Stephen Sharp had retired and had been sent a card with a year's membership for him and his partner Sally.
- e. **Promoting the Club:** The Chair hoped that all members would continue to promote the Club by bringing along friends as visitors, encouraging new members and giving copies of the History of the Club as gifts.

The Meeting ended at 7.45pm.