



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bewdley Festival Limited and Bewdley Society Committee

Meeting held at 7.30 pm
Monday 28th June 2021 at St George's Hall, Bewdley

1. Welcome and introductions

PP welcomed everyone and introduced the members of the Council of Management present. He explained that the meeting would comprise three sections, the formal AGM for the limited company, the AGM of the Festival Committee and finally a general presentation regarding the next steps and future plans for the Festival.

Part 1 Bewdley Festival Limited

Present:-

Phill Potter – Chair	(PP)
Graham La Borde	(GLB)
Richard Mander	(RM)
Trevor Price – Society Chair	(TP)
John Frost	(JF)
Stephen Wyer – Clerk	(SJW)

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Jenny Paddock, Graham Corner and Sue Humphries.

3. Minutes of AGM held on 27th April 2020 via Zoom

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2020 were proposed as a true record by Graham La Borde.

4. Chair's report

PP said that despite the cancellation of the main Festival necessitated by the pandemic the Festival had continued with its arts programme with a Gallery exhibition, a visit by author Anne Cleeves and the Youth Festival. All in all, the most important achievement of the last 12 months was that the Festival survives and is still financially solvent as the next presentation from the Treasurer would illustrate.

5. Financial Review and Approval of Accounts

GLB reported that the financial affairs of the Festival were in good order. There had been a loss of £6,700 but the company still had cash reserves of £49,700 and was therefore able to continue as a going concern.

PP proposed and JF seconded that the accounts as presented be approved and that Azets, formerly DHJH, be reappointed accountants and examiners for the ensuing year. This was carried.

6. Retirement and re-election of director

PP, being the director required to retire by rotation under the Articles of Association of the Company stated his willingness to stand for re-election. His re-election was proposed by TP, seconded by JF and approved.

Part 2 Bewdley Festival Society Committee

Attendees: Cat Banks, Jane Barnett, Peter Barnett, Steve Bridges, Richard Brine, Alan Fairs, Heather Fairs, John Frost, Malcolm Garner, Andy Grayland, Colin Hill, Andy Grayland, Jean Horton, Ron Ireland, Val Ireland, Kathryn Key, Roger Key, Graham La-Borde (GLB), Richard Mander (RM), Janet Mann, Jane Matthews, Sue Pennington, Sue Pilmer, Phill Potter, Trevor Price, Clem Prothero, Gordon Roberts, Tony Rudd, Neil Shaw, Margaret Smith, Rachel Tucker, Susan Weston, Alan Wood, Kay Wood, Stephen Wyer.

Apologies: Rob Bold, Anthea Collins, Dave Collins, Graham Corner, Jackie Dainty, Peter Dainty, Alastair Elliott, Sue Humphries, Wenda Janes, Chris Noons, Jenny Paddock, Carole Swingler, Jos Swingler, Phil Wright, Ruth Wright.

1. Minutes of the AGM 2019

The Minutes of the AGM last held in 2019 were signed off. There were no matters arising.

2. Review of 2019 and 2020

Trevor thanked everyone for their support during this difficult time, the 'Friends' for their patience, the Festival Society committee for their hard work during the many disruptions that 2020 brought, the Trustees and volunteers who worked hard behind the scenes getting the Foundation up and running and the Partners and Patrons who have pledged support for this year's Festival.

Trevor reported that Bewdley Festival managed to promote several events in the breaks between (Covid-19) lockdowns. This included an art exhibition in Bewdley Museum by 8 prominent (RBSA) local artists, the art film: Frida Kahlo which was due to be part of the 2020 Festival, two youth music events: the 'Young Musician of the Year's competition and a youth music showcase and an Evening with Ann Cleeves the author of 'Vera' and 'Shetland'.

The formation of BCAF a major project was completed despite the pandemic. There will be opportunities for local artists to be involved in its development.

It is hoped that this year's Bewdley Festival, planned for the 8th to 17th October, will be able to take place. The closure of the main Festival evening venue, The Mercure Hotel, has caused problems but alternative venues have been found.

This does mean that there will be fewer tickets this year. Trevor urged people to tell their friends to become members so that they don't miss out on tickets. The majority of the artists booked for 2020 have agreed to take part in this year's Festival.

3. Treasurer's report and accounts

The Bewdley Festival Society Treasurer, Chris Griffin, was not present but reported that he was very grateful to our Festival Friends, the majority having agreed that their 2020 membership could be considered as a donation to Bewdley Festival funds. This has relieved some of the financial pressure due to the pandemic. Income from membership/100 Club was £7,500 during the last financial year and expenditure amounted to £700.

4. Nomination of Committee members

One third of the Bewdley Festival Society committee are required to step down each year but can be re-elected. This year Val Ireland, Sue Pennington, Rob Bold, Neil Shaw and Jane Barnett (Secretary) agreed to step down and put themselves forward for re-election. They were duly re-elected. Nominated by Peter Barnett and seconded by Gordon Roberts.

The other 10 committee members comprise: Cat Banks, Peter Barnett, Alastair Elliott, Andy Grayland, Chris Griffin (Society Treasurer), Colin Hill, Sue Humphries, Graham La-Borde (Bewdley Festival Treasurer), Trevor Price (Chair) and Gordon Roberts.

There were no other nominations received. All were duly re-elected, nominated by Rob Ireland and seconded by Clem Prothero.

Part 3: Festival Plans and Future Developments:

1. Bewdley Community Arts Foundation (BCAF):

GLB briefly set out what the Foundation is going to achieve and explained the first round of grants totalling just over £2,000 have recently been awarded to students attending Bewdley School. The grants included buying painting, drawing and photography equipment; funding poetry workshops and buying equipment for the drama department.

RM explained how the Foundation will be funded. It was imperative the future of Festival was not compromised but enhanced by the development of BCAF.

A good discussion followed about the type of activities the Foundation would support, who could benefit and how this supported our work as a arts charity. The Court Yard Hereford Project (creative ageing) is a useful reference for how we want BCAF to develop.

PP thanked GLB for his work on the BCAF project.

2. Festival Plans and Future Developments:

A 5-year plan for Bewdley Festival was to have been completed by this stage but this has now been delayed. Trevor asked everyone to consider how they would like Bewdley Festival to look in the future particularly as we have lost the main venue. Contributions to be submitted to the Festival Office.

There being no further business the combined meeting closed at 7:50 pm.

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Chair