**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting,**

**Wednesday, 30th November 2016 at 7.00 p.m.**

**Bedern Hall**

The Annual General Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 30thNovember 2016. The meeting was chaired by Linda Terry, Chair of the York Mystery Plays Supporters Trust (YMPST). Confirmation was made that the quorum of at least 17 members was present.

**Present:**

**The Committee (2015)**: Linda Terry (Chair), Phil Turner (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Gary Bateson (General), Simon Tompsett (General), Sharon Hill (General), Christine Gajewicz (Secretary)

**Members: Pauline Atkin,** Julie Barker, Steve Barker, Patricia Castle, Ruth Cozens, Maurice Crichton, Roger Farrington, Colin Lea, Bernard Lyne, Ged Murray, Janet Sharpe, Christine Scaife, Gaynor Spivey, Noel Stabler , Marie Taylor, Bernadette Turner, Sandra Wadley, Angela Wheatcroft

**In attendance: Tom Straszewski**

**Apologies were received from:** Isobel Carrick, Wilma Edwards, Angie Millard, Margaret O’Donnell, Shelagh Loftus, Lucinda Rennison, Margaret Scott, James Senden, Leslie Senden, Jill Shepherd

1. The Chair declared the meeting opened and welcomed members to the AGM.
2. **Previous minutes:** the minutes of 19 November 2015 were presented for adoption.

**Proposed:** Bernard Lyne, **Seconded:** Colin Lea. The minutes were adopted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

1. **Chair’s report:** Linda Terry presented the report recording the some of the challenges facing the Trust and its achievements during the year and thanked all those who had contributed to its success. A discussion followed: Noel Stabler raised the observation of how we can engage younger people to join the Trust and Simon Tompsett pointed out that other local organisations can struggle to attract younger members. Bernard Lyne noted that there was no shortage of younger performers. Maurice Crichton suggested a banded scheme of subscriptions in order to attract younger members and consider asking members of the Waggon Plays to share their contact details to avoid data protection issues. Linda Terry noted that YMPST has a large database but we have so far been unable to access the Minster’s database, although requests were made for our link to be sent to the cast and crew of the 2016 production. We already make use of social network sites and community drama events have been a spin off following the 2012 production. ( A copy of the report is available at **weblink**
2. **Financial Report:** The report was presented by Phil Turner. It was noted that the funds currently available are £3114.92, largely made up of membership subscriptions and proceeds from general fundraising and events. Steve Barker asked for clarification on spending on postage. Phil Turner explained that most of the expenditure went on the mailing of membership cards, letters and newsletters to those members who do not have email. Thanks were given to Bernard Lyne for auditing the accounts. The meeting was asked to adopt the financial statement and accounts for 2015-. **Proposed:** Marie Taylor, **Seconded:** Bernadette Turner. The statement and accounts were adopted.

(A copy of the report is available at weblink

1. **2016/2017 Committee Election:** Linda Terry summarised the nomination process for the election of the 2016/17 Committee, noting that nominations for roles had been uncontested and that those nominated were therefore confirmed in post. Linda Terry would remain as Chair for 2016/17, Phil Turner would remain as Treasurer and Chris Gajewicz would remain as Secretary. Gary Bateson, Simon Tompsett and Shelagh Loftus would remain on the Committee as general members, joined by Ged Murray who was welcomed onto the Committee. Thanks were expressed for her contribution to Sharon Hill who has stepped down from the Committee.
2. **Proposal: Future of YMPST:** A presentation was given by Simon Tompsett, Phil Turner andLinda Terry about the future vision for the Mysteries in forthcoming years and the potential role of this Trust. Members’ views were sought on the proposal that the Trust takes on a commissioning role for the Plays, acting as the voice of the community in the city. Maurice Crichton noted that larger plays are not necessarily the best way forward as they are not financially sustainable in the current climate and that smaller scale productions should be considered. Concerns were raised from the floor about the organisation possessing the necessary skills and resources to carry out such activities as fund raising and networking on a major scale. Simon Tompsett indicated that we could apply for funds from Ward Committee budgets and said that the Arts Council can amplify locally raised funds. Ged Murray felt that the Trust could do more but recognised that it is a high risk strategy. It was reassuring that the Trust would not have legal or financial responsibilities for productions. Linda Terry concluded the discussion by asking if members were happy for the Committee to undertake further work around the issues raised around the sustainability of a potential new role. This was agreed and it was decided that the Committee would report back to members at a future extraordinary meeting in the spring of 2017. A copy of the presentation is available at: (***Insert link***).
3. **Any Other Business:** None
4. There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.