

AGM MINUTES Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Zoom at 7.00pm

In the meeting: Nick Ansell, Gary Bateson, Ruth Cozens, Maurice Crichton (Host and Minutes), David Denbigh, Elizabeth Denbigh, Martin Denbigh, Sue Harris, Stewart Hildred, Chris Jackson, Sarah Lowes, Bernard Lyne, Harold Mozley, Ged Murray, Margaret O'Donnell, Philip Parr, Margaret Scott, Leslie Senden (all the way from the USA), Janet Sharpe, Christina Skaife, Noel Stabler, Linda Terry (Chair), Simon Tompsett, Phil Turner, Roger Wood. (25, quorum is 10)

Liam Evans-Ford joined from point 7 as ****special guest****.

1. Welcome. Linda Terry gave us all a warm welcome.
2. Apologies for absence. These were noted via various media from: Marie Taylor, John Saunders, Susan Saunders, Margaret Hillier, Angela Wheatcroft, Jacqui Faller, Lucinda Rennison, Colin Lea.
3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the AGM on 19 February 2020 were **approved**. No matters arising.

4. Chair's report.

Linda Terry presented the Trustees Annual Report 2019-20 which had been made available to the membership ahead of the meeting. She highlighted these points

Our objectives remain the same: to spread the word about the Plays, to support performances of the Plays, to work to make those performances accessible, and to develop relationships across the city with organisations that can make things happen.

For help with our media work, sincere thanks to Stewart Hildred for editing the website and newsletter; James Eaglesfield for structural work on the website; and to David Denbigh for Twitter, Instagram and YouTube initiatives.

Report covers year to 5 April 2020, which seems a long time ago and a different world now! Linda paid tribute to all those who worked to make our first *A Nativity for York* such a success. Philip Parr who was present but everyone, a great effort! 540 came to see it - people who are familiar with the Plays but

visitors to the city as well and people seeing Mystery Play material for the first time. The ticket money taken for that production is being held for another Nativity production in December this year.

Our annual Stakeholders meeting continues. We are pushing the message that York needs an infrastructure that enables outdoor performances to be put on more easily than is currently the case. The new Cultural Strategy suggests this is now on the city's agenda.

Thank you to members for staying with us in 2020 during the pandemic. We sponsored YTR's Radio Mystery Plays with £1,000. Maurice raised £1000 with his Lord Donkeyhead run which filled a fundraising gap left by St Crux closure.

Looking ahead: we've begun to look at buying our own wagon and this year borrowing a wagon over the summer to see if other groups can be persuaded to make use of it. More about that in the Newsletter.

We have been working with stakeholders, York Minster and York Festival Trust, initially to put on a production at Easter. This is now postponed to the end of May when a production looks to be possible. We have £2,000 from the Passion Trust to livestream and capture a recording. We have put in a bid to the Lord Mayor's Fund. We are delighted to announce that Philip Parr has been appointed to direct it.

Philip said he is delighted to be on a personal journey from Nativity to Passion. 'Here we go on another adventure!' The next step will be auditions.

Maurice has the ear of Lord Donkeyhead who thinks the Entry to Jerusalem (his biggest scene) should be marked this year with a run at dawn on Palm Sunday, the last day of the current Stay at Home lockdown. 3 laps of the wagon route but trotting back up Nunnery Lane in each case to re-enter the city by Micklegate Bar where royal parties were welcomed. Maurice wants to offer a playreading of The Entry to Jerusalem that day as well. We are setting up a Donate page link on our website - donations welcome!

5. Treasurer's Report.

Phil Turner took a quick canter through the accounts 2019-20 already circulated to the membership ahead of the meeting.

The main financial item during the year was *A Nativity for York 2019*. We set up a funding model that would not bankrupt the Trust if ticket sales were poor. We allocated a maximum of £2,000 from reserves to support the show setting

ourselves to make up the rest of the production budget from fundraising and grants. In the event only £1,000 from reserves was used to finance the show. Funding income came to £4,500: 2 good days at St Crux, member donations, grants from the Common Good Trust and Feoffees of St Michael Spurriergate. Cost of production £5,500.

The net income from tickets, programmes and refreshments was £5,200. That is the sum we have ringfenced for the next Nativity production whenever that may be.

We have paid an advance booking fee for 2 days at St Crux in 2020 that did not happen, our booking has carried forward to this year.

Overall, we began the year in question with £3,834 in the bank, raised £11,278 during the year, spent £6,930, and finished the year with £8,132.

Phil proposed we accept the accounts to 5.4.20, seconded by Simon. All in favour. **2019-2020 accounts accepted.**

Since the end of the accounting year last April. We have had limited fundraising because St Crux was cancelled. Lord Donkeyhead raised £1000. We gave £1000 to YTR for their Radio Mysteries project. We are holding over the ringfenced nativity money for a production this year.

May and September St Crux days are in the calendar. The first of these falls before the May 17 Covid relaxation and may not happen. [Post meeting update: it will not be happening] The Palm Sunday Lord Donkeyhead run might fill the gap.

We are sharing the cost of the Passion project with York Festival Trust but our commitment to that is still £1500. In 2022 finances will again be tight as we are aiming to do a wagon play next year as well as another Nativity.

Phil thanked Bernard Lyne for examining the accounts as he has done year on year. He has volunteered to keep going. Phil proposed he be our independent examiner for the coming year. Linda seconded. All in favour. **Bernard appointed as independent examiner of our accounts for 2020-21.**

6. Committee elections.

David Denbigh who was co-opted to the Committee in March 2020, stood for formal election. Praising his astute questioning at key times and his social media skills, Linda proposed him, Ged seconded. All in favour. **David elected.**

Three of the charity's trustees retire by rotation in accordance with Clause 13 of our Constitution. Phil Turner and Simon Tompsett (in office at reformation of the Trust as a CIO in December 2017), Colin Lea (first elected February 2019). All have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election. Roger proposed, Noel seconded. All in favour. **Phil, Simon and Colin re-elected.**

7. Amendments to Constitution.

Phil presented the case for two amendments. The change of wording has been circulated to the membership ahead of the meeting and is attached to these Minutes, both changes already proposed by Phil and seconded by Linda.

a) In this Covid ridden year, the Charity Commission have permitted charities to hold their AGMs online whether their constitution allows it or not. For the future, we think we should insert this option explicitly in our constitution. All in favour. **Amendment adopted.**

b) When we drafted the original Constitution for the CIO in 2017, we followed the Charity Commission's idea for Trustees to take a one year long sabbatical from time to time so we don't get stale with the same old team.

Roger asked what is the current term of office? Phil explained the rule is that one third of the Committee has to retire every year. With a committee of 8 that means 3 per year, so for some a 'term' is effectively two years and a sabbatical due on the second retirement by rotation which can mean after 4 or 5 years. We would start to lose some of our original 2017 trustees at the next AGM. We are worried that the we will lose a lot of key experience and expertise from the Committee in the next couple of years just as we are stepping up our activities. We are proposing that the sabbatical is triggered on a Trustee's third retirement by rotation instead of the second. All in favour. **Amendment adopted.**

The full committee of 9 is now therefore: Linda Terry (Chair, in her second term), Phil Turner (Treasurer, Term 2), Ged Murray (Term 2), Simon Tompsett (Term 2), Gary Bateson (Term 2), Colin Lea (Term 2), Maurice Crichton (Secretary, Term 1), Anna Briggs (Term 1), David Denbigh (Term 1).

That concluded the formal business of the meeting.

8. Special Guest appearance.

Linda introduced **Liam Evans-Ford** veteran of the *York Mystery Plays 2012* in the Museum Gardens where he was Community Producer. Liam was

instrumental in encouraging the formation of the Trust and nurturing its early phases. He is now Executive Director of Theatr Clywd, Mold, North Wales.

He spoke to us about his career in the Arts so far, his move away from York to north Wales and what he has been up to at Theatr Clywd. We plan to upload his presentation to our YouTube channel in due course. The talk was followed by a question and answer session with him.

Dates for your 2021 diary

Lord Donkeyhead's Entry to the City: 28 March (Palm Sunday)

Passion wagon project: Saturday 29 May and Monday 31 May

Feast of Corpus Christi: Thursday 3 June

St Crux: Thursday 9 September