

LADS Committee meeting (8) Thursday 22nd April 2021

8pm Zoom

Present:

Jan Evans

Ron Gunstone

Cynthia Hilton

Steph Gerrard

Anna Lingard

Mark Lingard

Bex Smith

Alison Utting – Chairperson.

1) Apologies:

Ian Phelps

2) Minutes of 4 previous meetings

All unanimously approved

3) Treasurer's report

No real movement reported by **Bex**.

£15 was received from the 200 Club draw.

A few members had paid their voluntary subscriptions.

Anna offered to send out a reminder concerning the voluntary subscriptions in the next Mailchimp.

4) Confirmation that new Constitution has been adopted.

Unanimously accepted – with no objections. **Anna** to put it on website.

5) Child Protection Policy:

The policy was generally accepted, although **Ron** pointed out that there was a repetitive line and some spelling mistakes. It was agreed that he should forward his comments on to **Alison and Anna** who would then make the necessary corrections. **Anna** to put it on website.

6) Grant applications update from Pam:

"I am pleased to report that the application for £2,000 to the Post Code Lottery Grant was successful. We should get a decision on it within the next week.

We can now offer £4K in match funding to the Arts Council. (£2K PCL, £1500 MHTF, £500 LADS)

Following discussion with the committee it was agreed that the Arts Council application should be for the balance required to buy the outdoor staging and 2 lightweight and adjustable lecterns – a total of £3,500. Decisions on Arts Council grants are now taking at least 10 weeks so I hope they will make a decision by mid July."

7) Member's consultation meeting – Analysis and outcome:

The consensus was that it would be impractical to do a big production this year due to Covid restrictions. However, it was agreed we should put on small productions with fewer people involved, possibly a variety evening in November.

Late June/early July was to be considered for an outside workshop and picnic.

The members agreed that to encourage our audiences back then we needed to provide them with something light, entertaining, uplifting and comedic. It should be a low budget production (bearing in mind ticket sales will be limited by capacity rules) and keeping with Covid restrictions we should consider the pre-ordering of drinks and/or table service.

Members generally agreed that we should maintain our base at Llanymynech Village Hall and that we should consider using hand delivered leaflets to advertise our activities therefore encouraging new members to be involved.

Alison offered to send contact details, for the Pant and Llanymynech Parish Council, to Cynthia so she could look into the possibility of our using the football field for activities, particularly but not specifically for the weekend of 3rd/4th July 2021 (workshop/picnic).

Anna read a suggested Mission Statement to the Committee that she had compiled from ideas gathered Member's Consultation meeting. It was unanimously accepted as an ideal Mission Statement and it was agreed that the Statement should head up the Constitution.

8) Casting – clarify guidelines for Directors:

The following statement was agreed following this meeting, to be attached to crib sheet for Directors and given to anyone directing for LADS:

“At LADS, we want to give all our members the best possible chance to get involved with our productions. We expect the production director to hold a launch event (e.g. audition, reading, or workshop) at the outset of the rehearsal process, or in the case of smaller endeavours that they will communicate to all members so that people can express an interest. The launch event would be where casting of acting roles and assignment of other essential roles would be considered. Launch events may be thrown open to non-members, but anyone accepting a role in a production would be expected to become a member of LADS. Pre-casting of roles should be avoided. The final say on casting lies with the director, but we hope that our stated aims of inclusion and fun will be respected, as well as our desire to produce great theatre.”

9) Play readings:

Infringement of copyright was discussed and it was noted we had to be careful not to be guilty of this. Suggestions were made that we should use as much of the material we had access to, written by our own members, or older scripts that are no longer in copyright.

Various suggestions were made for changes in the play readings, e.g. once or twice a month. **Alison** suggested

we continue with the weekly online readings until the end of May, then possibly less frequently as part of our regular activities.

Another suggestion was that we delegate different people to select a play and lead the group.

10) A.O.B. :

It was suggested that with fewer other groups using the Village Hall, we might be able to secure a regular LADS booking. Thursday nights were the most popular option. **Alison** to contact Dawn/Ian.

Jan asked the Committee for any news items she could use in the local editorials to encourage publications to continue. She also suggested she would consult with Pam as to the type of news items that would be suitable.

Pam has decided to produce 'Macbeth' independently of LADS (Stage Five).

11) Next meeting:

Thursday 28th May 2021 8pm.....hopefully this will be able to take place in the Village Hall, otherwise on Zoom.