

Minutes of 32nd AGM of The Torrington Players held at The Plough on Thursday 17th July 2013

Present: Chair	Jean Evans-Loude
Vice-chair	Chris Keeley
Treasurer	Christine Spry
Secretary	Steve Puttick
Committee members	Neil Fordham

1. **Chairman's opening remarks.** The Vice -Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and spoke briefly about the death of three members during the past year.

2. **Apologies:** Carol Ryan, Jean Tyler, Richard Pitt, Andrea Allman, Frank Allman, Stef Easton (arrived late)

3. **Minutes of AGM held on 18th July 2013.** These were agreed and accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

- There were fewer newsletters since the society had had a quiet year.
 - Thank-you Jean Tyler for hosting last year's get together.
 - The Autumn production had a good review and excellent feedback.
 - We've sponsored Liz Harrison's 'Dreamkids'. Tony Easton gave a brief talk on what they do, and the committee decided that by helping the 'Dreamkids', it may create a new group of young people that will join the Torrington Players in their future productions.
 - The Autumn production for this year is 'Female Transport' by Steve Gooch. It will be directed by Sara Pruce.
 - We are hoping to perform some 'Mummers' Plays' over the Christmas period.
 - There have been a few things cancelled this year, due to a lack of response by members. There was no summer get-together, no Spring production, and the Chairman received very few replies regarding the AGM.
5. Treasurer's report. The accounts have not yet been audited. There is still a healthy balance There is a separate sheet with a budget breakdown from the last performance etc.
6. Election of President. David Rowe re-elected unanimously
7. Election of Honory Memebers. It was proposed by JEL seconded by LR that the existing Honorary Members be elected for their lifetime therefore obviating the need to vote each year. Accepted unanimously
8. Election of chair and Officers. No new nominations had been received. The following were elected Jean Evans-Loude Chair, Chris Keeley Vice-Chair, Chrisitne Spry Treasurer, Pauline Allen Minutes Secretary.
9. Elected to Committee: Neil Fordham, Andrea Allman, Frank Allman, Bill Grainger
10. June Dolan, a long standing member, has left the society a £500 legacy. Neil Fordham suggested that some of this be used to sponsor a seat in the Plough: Torrington Players Past and Present. Agreed unanimously

11. CHAIR'S REMARKS –

Chair apologised that she had failed to say that Steve Puttick was prepared to stand for election to the committee, but not as an officer. He was happy to stand down! The chair commented on the general lack of participation by many members of the society. Few are prepared to do anything other than act, and the same few people find themselves working hard to do all the production/backstage jobs. People need to take responsibility for all roles within the society, not just the acting! The present committee is not prepared to take on all the roles, and the Chair is not prepared to ask Tony and Stef yet again to step in. Productions will not go ahead unless a suitable team is in place.

Ian Goodenough was invited to the AGM meeting, but unfortunately was busy and could not attend. He wants to be an active, encouraging NODA rep and has initially suggested the possibility of running some Directors' workshops, and having mentors from different societies to support.

It was acknowledged that the Autumn Production contains some very strong language. This will be flagged up in the Plough Programme, and the Committee would remain behind at the end of the meeting to listen to any views. Members were invited to pass on any views they have then or before the first meeting of the new committee.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR –

- Bill Grainger has suggested that maybe we should hire Directors.
- Stef Easton said that more personal contact would be good- i.e. phone calls rather than email notifications. It was agreed that this worked very well in the past making members feel more involved and encouraged. The present committee will reinstate it.
- It was decided by the floor, that 'Oh, what a Lovely War', would be an appropriate play for next year's autumn production. After some discussion, it was proposed that the new committee investigates putting on this production. A budget of £4000 is available for this production; the majority agreed that this would be suitable.