General Council Minutes

20:00 10 May 2021, by Zoom

Present: Simon Gleisner (SG); Chair

Marissa Papas (MP)

Fiona Daffern (FD); Minutes

Lisa Thomas (LT)
Gareth Milton (GM)
Chris Stooke (CS)
Guy Jones (GJ)
Roisin Deady (RD)
Barry Heselden (BH)
Ben Rathe (BR)

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies	
	Cal Beckett (CB)	
2.	Minutes of GC 12 April 2021 Approved	
3.	Matters Arising GC (not on agenda)	
	Completed	
	Finance folder created and 2020 reports uploaded	
	Youth and Learning Officer Business case approved	
	TD contract extended to 31 Oct 21.	
	Safeguarding documents on website	
	Outstanding	
	Reports to be submitted to Chair for the Annual Report	
	Outstanding – for future review on timeframes	
	Hearing Loop to be tested	GTM
	Volunteer training weeks	MP
	Mission and vision to membership – to align with AGM	SG
	Membership Survey (review in Sept 2021) (volunteer survey completed)	GJ
4.	Membership Concerns	
	Concerns have been raised recently from a few members about the plans for the website, open meetings, communications to membership (newsletter and minutes), visibility of GC, vacancies on GC and volunteering.	
	Website update will continue as planned. To review communications, splitting general news and member information. BR, RD, GJ and SG	BR, RD, GJ, SG

	to review. Agreed that minutes were a formal record of GC, not the primary means of communication to members.	
	June GC to be an open meeting for members.	
	Acknowledged the importance of informal discussion, which has been more difficult over the last year, but GC should attend the 6 o'clock Zoom more, for example. It is hoped this will naturally get better as the building opens and the Barden is running.	
5.	GC Vacancies and Volunteering	
	Agreed importance of communication re volunteering as we move to reopen the building and the Barden.	
	Publicity has been less onerous without shows, but acknowledged this will increase.	
	TC has been covering GTM role for those shows put on in the last year. Discussed options for shared responsibility / rota of GTM role and possibilities of people shadowing GC to trial the roles prior to the AGM, if someone interested but hesitant about fully committing.	
	SG will do a call out for any members interested in Publicity or GTM roles for GC	SG
6.	FEST Norwood Bryon and the FN team have recently notified GC that they are reluctantly withdrawing this year as it was felt there was now too limited time to organise. GC was saddened that FN would not now be put on this year, but accepted the concerns. TC to review if there are any elements that might be able to still be put on.	тс
7.	Opening the Building Rehearsals scheduled in the Old Fire Station from 17/5. Tickets to be put on Ticketsource from that date.	
	First show will still be socially distanced. To keep en eye on Govt. guidance on changes to audience requirements post June 21 st .	
	GJ to discuss with Adam plans for refreshments during shows. Seat service would prove difficult if fuller audiences.	GJ
8	Season Update TC delighted to announce that shows up to end of November were now all confirmed. Particular thanks to Cal for scheduling and Lisa for rights.	
	Possible weekend of shorts in August, linked to the writing workshops.	

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	TC to discuss with RD the possibility of a video launch. BH announced that the ducts in the theatre had been taken down the previous weekend. After 17/5 a team will get in and paint the space.	
	From 30/5 seats will be back up. Particular thanks to Chaz, Bex, Tom, Mark, Sean and Hans. Great work.	
9	Virtual Lambeth Country Show To be held 17 – 18 July.	
	CB had volunteered to put on Casablanca. RD noted that the applications deadline was 9/5 so may have missed the opportunity? RD to speak to Lottie.	RD
10	Website The team had spoken with Gareth re FoH/Box Office needs and Adam re Bar needs.	
	In the process of finalising the wireframes with Chaptr, then would move to the design phase and sharing of design ideas.	
	RD to attend BPT meeting on 17/5 to talk through progress there and ensure any additional needs covered from there. (Bex and Teresa already consulted).	
	Wiki Agreed Directors to be responsible for updating the wiki pages for their shows. A crib sheet to be written on how to do this.	СВ
11	EDI Policy Work on this was paused over the last month, final comments to SG by end of May	All
12	AGM Date AGM agreed for Monday, 6 September. FD shared document with requirements and timeframes.	
	FD to draft an initial comms piece 'save the date' to go out in the Members only newsletter	FD
13.	BPT & BarCom Update AHU Project on target to start next week.	
	Bex had been approached by a local sound and light organisation who were interested in working with us as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agenda. BR had joined an exploratory meeting, which had some interesting ideas and possibilities. Bex continuing to talk to them.	
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	No update from the Bar.	
	General Updates	
15.	Finance CS in contact with our Auditors for final updates for the Annual accounts.	
	A meeting was planned for Wednesday to discuss transfer from Sage to Xero accounting package.	
	Youth & Volunteering New courses planned for adults including: creative writing, directing, first aid and safeguarding. Drama classes for Youth between May – July plus additional workshops in half term.	
	Theatre Committee / GTM Nothing to add	
	Membership Looking forward to arranging new members nights.	
	Marketing. Nothing to add	
	 Feedback from FoH volunteers: possibility of member discount to encourage return to watch shows? Extension of 2 free shows deadline for new members who may not have had the opportunity to use theirs in the last year? (Agreed) First Aid training focusing on regular FoH and bar volunteers. GM organising refresher sessions for box office volunteers. Tickets would be website/card only moving forward. No raffle being organised for a while. Questioned if possible to do online (digital) programmes? RD to explore. 	RD
	 Possible to make the donate button more visible? RD confirmed this would be fixed with the new website. Discussed the potential for pre-ordering drinks at time of booking ticket if the bar not fully operational. 	
12.	AOB SG announced with sadness that Val Williams' husband, Alan, had died the previous week after a long illness. Our thoughts and condolences are with Val and her family.	