# **General Council Minutes**

16:00; 13 April 2020, by Zoom

Present: Simon Gleisner (SG); Chair

Dave Hollander (DH)

Fiona Daffern (FD); Minutes

Lisa Thomas (LT) Guy Jones (GJ) Ben Rathe (BR) Chaz Doyle (CD) Chris Stooke (CS) Mat Hill (MH)

Gareth Milton (GM)
Bryon Fear (BF)
Jess Osorio (JO)
Barry Heselden (BH)

	Item	Action
1.	Apologies	
	None	
2.	Minutes of GC 9 March 2020	
	Approved	
3.	Matters Arising GC (not on agenda)	
	Outstanding – to be completed by end of April	
	Stage Managers' Handbook	CD
	General Technical Manager's Handbook	CD
	<ul> <li>To put Director's Handbook onto the Website</li> </ul>	TC (MH)
	Ice-cream review	SG
	<ul> <li>BF to give FD access to the policies section of the website</li> </ul>	BF
	<ul> <li>Guidance for FoH, backstage and actors where unplanned</li> </ul>	TC (BR)/
	attendees with special needs	GM
	Articles newsletter:	
	Being a Director at SLT (info collated)	LT
	Step Into Acting (for those new to the craft)	LT
	Chinese take away drivers parking outside our fire exit. CD	CD
	exploring legal options to mark pavement with Lambeth.	
	200 Club (accounting mechanism confirmed by CS). GJ to find	GJ
	someone to run the club. Write article for next newsletter.	
	Outstanding – to be completed on return to Theatre	
	Operators' Handbook	CD
	Hearing Loop to be tested	CD
	<ul> <li>Two additional Bell theatre seats to be placed in foyer – CD to speak to Hans to action</li> </ul>	CD
	<ul> <li>Info on how work the heaters in the foyer (Bex)</li> </ul>	FD
	<ul> <li>Training Director JD to be circulated (with Charlotte for funding review) – discussed hold up re fundraising and what the job</li> </ul>	SG

	needs to be (2 or 3 days).  Volunteer training weeks  Mission and vision to membership to be circulated prior to AGM	SG SG
	<ul> <li>AHU Reconfiguration</li> <li>Membership Survey (review in 6 months)</li> </ul>	GJ
4.	Communication to and from BPT	
	BPT had met virtually on 6 April. Primary focus was to:	
	<ul> <li>a) review long-term financial viability during shut down</li> <li>b) building security during shut-down</li> <li>c) employer responsibilities</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>a) CS circulated cashflow spreadsheet to Dec 2020. BPT and SLT reviewing consolidated finances on a regular basis. Loan repayments paused to AHF and Lambeth Council. Bills and employment costs should be minimal. Optimistic we should be OK if shut down til the end of the year. Accounts have been submitted to the Auditors, awaiting feedback. Cash position slightly better than anticipated.</li> <li>b) Building has been closed and everything unplugged, etc. There is a weekly rota set up for checking the building security and maintenance</li> <li>c) Bex has been placed on furlough leave and working for the NHS. She cannot do any work for us. Deep clean completed by end of March and no further cleaning services until we prepare to reopen.</li> </ul>	
	SG asked if fobs had been deactivated? FD to check	FD
	LT raised that show rights had been paid up to early May. To check the level of flexibility to use the rights later on – or change to another show if no longer available.	LT
	Discussion about principle of paying up front for rights and deferring to support long-term viability of rights companies, e.g. Nick Herne books. Sentiment supported but concern of risks to our monies if they went bankrupt. CS and LT to take offline.	CS/LT
	DH raised from YT point of view, Teacher's not being paid and he would not claim salary. YT were owed three weeks of classes. If all requested refund c£3k liability. Preference to credit classes on return, but would refund if asked. No one asked yet.	
5.	Communication to and from BarCom	
	None	

6. AGM Initial discussions over email to postpone the AGM from May to September (subject to Govt. advice). All asked if they would stay on til a later AGM. Postponement and staying in post unanimously AGREED. FD to draft comms to members  7. Fest Norwood Ability to run FEST still up in the air, but agreed would be a good relaunch, if possible. BF confirmed planning still happening to enable it to happen. Hayley had agreed to be FEST Duty Manager. To discuss with Siobhain whether summer school still possible  BF to provide critical timeline by next GC of when decisions to proceed or pull would need to be made.  Discussed whether possible to launch with FEST in different month? TC would need to be involved with decisions and plans. SG reiterated the importance of lead-in periods for any shows /events on reopening and to consider what type of shows we should prioritise to encourage	₿R)
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good attendance.	,
8 Coronavirus Exit Strategy Note: Theatres unlikely to be at forefront of any loosening of lockdown restrictions. Schools likely to be closed until September.	
To consider different scenarios, including:	
sales) BR to co-ordinate scenarios to discuss at next GC GJ to review membership age profile (if possible) GM to review ticket concessions  GM	
9 <b>Communications</b> Fortnightly newsletter to members continuing. All to think about useful articles.	
General Updates	
10. Finance Nothing to add	

#### Youth

Nothing to add

### **Theatre Committee**

Nothing to add

## Membership

Discussion about requests for membership refunds. Preference to lapse end date (e.g. if new member just joined for a specific play which was now postponed). Preference to defer end date so they get a full year, but can do refund if requested.

# **Publicity**

Website stats down 50%.

Reminder of 4 weeks lead-in for publicity when we reopen.

Focusing on updating digital archive

Updating donations page.

## **GSM**

Small amount of essential maintenance work being undertaken by Hans.

#### **Box Office**

Planning for changes on return, e.g. going contactless, use of auditorium passes. Will do volunteer training when we return (link to Volunteer week).

SG encouraged all to think about new ways of working in each of our respective areas.

### 11. **AOB**

GJ encouraged all to attend the virtual bar at 8pm. General pop in also at 6pm.