

DRAFT

MINUTES FOR THE SILCHESTER PLAYERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE CLUBROOM, SILCHESTER VILLAGE HALL ON
26TH JUNE 2018 AT 8.00 P.M.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Beryl Oliver, Stephen Oliver, Tony Oliver, Margaret Lillywhite, Nick Lock, Cheryl Lock, Joan May, Mari Fleming

2. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 20th June 2017

Sarah Oliver apologised that the previous year's minutes had been lost.

3. Matters Arising

As the minutes were not available, there were no matters arising.

4. Annual Reports

- 4.1. The Chairman, Roy Glancey, gave his report.
- 4.2. The Secretary, Sarah Oliver, gave her report.
- 4.3. The Treasurer, Mark Larby, presented the Accounts.

Mark proposed we continue to give £1,000 per charity per year, as funds allow this.

Mark raised the issue of our ticket pricing – our profits are decreasing year on year due to increasing costs, so it is necessary to close this gap by increasing ticket prices. It was pointed out that we are one of the lowest prices amateur groups in the area. At the moment, 50% of our income comes from concession priced tickets. It was proposed, and agreed, that we increase ticket prices in the short term to £9 for adults, £8 for concessions and £7 for children; it was agreed that, as children have to remain in education until 18, that 18 would be the age limit for child tickets.

Mark also said that we will be introducing an electronic payment system to allow for credit/debit card payments; this will make it easier for our customers to transact with us, and will cost a small percentage of the transactions value. This will be the first step towards adopting online bookings.

5. Receive and Adopt the Accounts

The 2017 Accounts were proposed by Caroline Martin and seconded by Tim Oliver.

The 2018 Accounts were proposed by Mandy Larby and seconded by Ian Haynes.

6. Subscriptions

The Treasurer proposed that subscriptions should be increased again to cover our insurance expenses. Mark proposed an increase to £12 for adults, £6 for juniors and £24 for family membership.

This proposal was seconded by Sarah Oliver.

7. Appointment of Auditor

The appointment of the auditor, John Coffin, was proposed by Mark Larby and seconded by Keith Graham. John Coffin has agreed to waive his fee (increased to £120) and wishes this to be donated to his chosen charity.

8. Amendments to the Constitution

The following amendments to the Constitution were put to the meeting.

1. “The retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election but no member shall serve as Chairman for more than two consecutive years at any one time.”

To be changed to:

“The retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election but no member shall serve as Chairman for more than three consecutive years at any one time.”

This change was suggested and approved at the 2017 AGM, but as the minutes were unavailable to confirm the proposal was put the meeting again.

“The Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee (hereinafter called “the Committee”) not exceeding nine members.”

To be changed to:

“The Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee (hereinafter called “the Committee”) not exceeding twelve members.”

This will meet current demand, and would give us more capacity for, for example, younger members to begin to participate in the running of the organisation.

Members had been notified of these changes in advance. These amendments were proposed by Tim Oliver and seconded by Pete Reynolds.

9. Election of the Committee

The Chairman advised the meeting that all members of the Committee were standing again for re-election. The following nominations had been received:

Nominees

Sarah Oliver	Clive Solomons
Roy Glancey	Tim Oliver
Mark Larby	Caroline Martin
Mandy Larby	Keith Graham

These members were voted *en bloc* following a proposal by Claire Humphreys.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1. Caroline Martin – suggested that we increase our tea and coffee pricing from 60p to £1. It will make change easier and quicker, and as we are now using larger cups we need to increase our profits.
- 10.2. Caroline Martin – suggested wording in the programme to encourage new members to come and learn a backstage skill alongside our experienced operatives. Caroline will write a new piece for the programme.
- 10.3. Tim Oliver – the loft needs clearing out so work can begin on the hall roof; this has been booked for 8th July – lots of people needed to help.
- 10.4. Tim Oliver – will provide a table-top quiz for the BBQ at Caroline's on 1st July.
- 10.5. Joe Williams – offered thanks on behalf of the ATC for allowing them to raise valuable funds by hiring out cushions. Tim mentioned that the hall committee are looking at new padded seats.
- 10.6. Roy Glancey – expressed concerns on behalf of the committee about unprofessional behaviour that has crept into some productions. He described us as an amateur group with professional values. Some people have been going to the pub during performances, in costume – flouting existing rules about not leaving in costume and make-up – and this also raised the issue of drinking alcohol during performances, especially those in key roles. A lively discussion ensued, ending in a general consensus that such behaviour does not occur in professional theatres, and our group aspires to meet similar standards. Stephen Bibby summed up the sentiment of the group as generally unfavourable towards any such unprofessional behaviour, and directors/producers should remind members/reinforce their expectations of behaviour and responsibility.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.43pm.