

**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Buxton International Festival (FoBIF) CIO
held at 10.30am on 11 February 2022 at the Lee Wood Hotel
Buxton and by Zoom**

Some 69 Friends attended the meeting in person with another 10 or so attending by Zoom.

Pete Spriggs, Chairman, opened the meeting at 10.30am by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending either in person or by Zoom.

1) Apologies for absence

Michael and Ettie Williams, Jean Ball, Anne Connor, David Nevell, David Smith, Richard Grieve, Colin Gregory (BFF trustee), Donald Maxwell, Dr and Mrs J Riordan and Miss J Langcroft.

2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2021

The minutes were unanimously approved. **Proposed: Jane Davies. Seconded: Andrew Matthews**

3) Audited Financial Statements, including the Trustees' Annual Report for Year ended 31 October 2021

The report had been made available on the website. Pete Spriggs gave a brief commentary on the annual report, highlighting some critical points. These included:

- Some 2000 + Friends despite the challenges of the cancelled Festival in 2020 and ongoing issues with Covid in 2021.
- The fact that despite those challenges the 2021 Festival went ahead and had been very well received.
- The staging of five operas and a full musical and literary programme.
- The ongoing generosity and support of the Friends.
- The number of volunteers who came forward during the Festival.
- The increased collaboration between the Friends, Buxton Festival Foundation and the Festival itself.
- Welcoming two new co-opted trustees during the course of the year – Rees Webster and Sarah Ward.
- The new level of Friends membership had now become well established – 'Next Gen Friends' for the under 35s of which there were now some 165.

No questions were raised on the detail of the Annual Report.

Tony Parsons, as Treasurer, then introduced and summarized the published accounts drawn to 31 October 2021. Of particular note was the relative strength of the finances of the Friends, the Foundation and the Festival with the result that there were accumulated funds within the Friends accounts of £212,159 due in part to the fact

that the Festival had requested more limited support during the year. As a result, a healthy sum is in place to support the Festival both for this year and into next year.

The Trustees' Annual Report and the Audited Accounts were duly noted.

4) Proposal to appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's Auditors for 2021-22

It was unanimously agreed that Laytons of Buxton should be appointed as the charity's auditors for 2021-2022. **Proposer: Louise Potter. Seconded: Roddy MacLean.**

5) No Resolutions had been received to be voted upon.

6) Buxton Festival Foundation update

Jane Davies as Chairman of the Foundation gave an update as to the Foundation, its current finances and investment plans going forward, indicating the positive position it found itself in.

7) Election of Committee Members (trustees) for 2022-2023

[As he was standing for re-election, Pete Spriggs temporarily stood down as Chairman of the meeting, being replaced by John Gaunt].

- Pete Spriggs, Judy Barker and Louise Potter were stepping down by rotation and were offering themselves for re-election. On a proposal from Carol Huff seconded by Michael Williams, they were unanimously re-appointed. [Pete Spriggs resumed chairmanship of the meeting].
- Rees Webster and Sarah Ward who had attended Board meetings over the past year as co-opted trustees, were put forward for election to the Board. On a proposal from Wyn Davies, seconded by Sue Parsons, they were unanimously appointed.

8) Festival 2022 update

Spirited updates on the plans for the 2022 Festival were given by Caroline Hewitt (adopting the personae of Neil Hughes, Adrian Kelly and herself) and by Vicky Dawson.

9) The provisional date for the next AGM was set for Friday 10 February 2023.

10) Any other business

- A friend had raised the possibility of holding the AGM in the afternoon as opposed to the morning. Pete Spriggs said that the timing of the AGM going forward was something that the Board of the Friends would discuss.
- Pete Spriggs then read a message to the meeting from Felicity Goodey who was unable to attend, expressing her appreciation for all the Friends do to support the Festival and without which support, the Festival could not survive.
- Louise Potter expressed her appreciation on behalf of the meeting for all that Pete Spriggs, John Gaunt and Tony Parsons do to ensure the smooth running of

the Friends organization for which Pete Spriggs thanked her, emphasizing that this was only possible with the enthusiasm and support of all the trustees.

There was no other business raised and, as Chairman, Pete Spriggs closed the formal part of the meeting thanking all for their attendance and participation.

There followed a well-attended piano recital by Roelof Temmingh and for those who wanted to stay, lunch at the Lee Wood Hotel.