

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Buxton International Festival (FoBIF) CIO
held at 10.30am on 10 February 2023 at the Lee Wood Hotel
Buxton and by Zoom**

Some 75 Friends attended the meeting in person with several others attending by Zoom.

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

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted for those 37 persons listed in the schedule to these minutes

2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2022

The minutes were unanimously approved. **Proposed: Louise Potter. Seconded: Susie Greenwood**

3) Audited Financial Statements, including the Trustees' Annual Report for Year ended 31 October 2022

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 27,200 tickets sold, 151 events, 3 unique in-house productions, 50 speakers, 356 musicians and singers employed.
- 2082 Friends; 56 volunteers and 2100 volunteer hours worked.
- The Festival had been repeatedly critically acclaimed for its productions.
- Increased communication between the Friends, Buxton Festival Foundation and the Festival itself.
- A big thank you to Friends for their continued loyalty with a request that all tell their networks about Buxton International Festival.

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 2022. Of particular note was the reduction in income which was largely accounted for by less gift aid being recovered for which there were historical reasons. Total expenditure was down and it was felt that £12,800 was a fair reflection of the cost of running the Friends on a year by year basis. Payments by way of support to the Festival totaled £243,000 which had been budgeted for. In addition to this the sum of £50,000 had been given to the Foundation for their endowment fund. It was intended that annual consideration be given as to whether there were other sums available to be passed across to the Foundation. The reserves being carried forward

of £92,217 would be retained in line with our reserves policy and to be available to further assist the Festival in the current year if required.

No questions were raised on the detail of the accounts.

The Trustees' Annual Report and the Audited Accounts (as attached) were duly noted.

4) Proposal to appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's Auditors for 2022-2023

It was unanimously agreed that we should appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity's auditors for 2022-2023. **Proposer: Philip Barton. Seconded: Roddy MacLean.**

5) Election of Committee members (trustees)

Pete Spriggs confirmed that Edna (Ettie) Williams, Helen Brown and Joan Matthews had all retired by rotation and were offering themselves for re-election. They were duly reelected on a proposal from Chris Baker, seconded by Heike Huschauer.

Pete then noted that Esther Allbutt had also retired by rotation but was not offering herself for reelection, although she would continue to support the Festival and Friends in whatever way she was able. Pete paid tribute to her tireless service to the Festival and Friends over several decades. Esther was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

6) Buxton Festival Foundation update

Jane Davies as Chairman of the Foundation gave an update as to the Foundation, its current finances indicating the positive position it found itself in. This had been aided by the donation of £50,000 from the Friends, a £25,000 legacy from Paul Berry and the payment over of £100,000 being part of a legacy received by the Festival from Anthony Faulkner. The Foundation was looking to continue to build its endowment in part through the promotion of legacy giving. The Foundation now had sufficient funds that it had felt able to commit to an annual grant to the Festival over the next three years in the sum of £25,000. The first such grant had been made to assist attracting an exceptional soloist for La Sonnambula.

7) Festival 2022 update

Michael Williams as CEO of the Festival and Vicky Dawson then gave an update of plans for the 2023 Festival.

Felicity Goodey as Chairman of the Festival then addressed the meeting, thanking the Friends for their steadfast support over so many years, without which support the Festival would not survive. Many people had come up to her during and after the 2022 Festival saying that it had been 'the best festival ever', something that she hoped would be said of this year's festival. She also expressed a wish that she would like to see fulfilled of the number of Friends, far from declining, but doubling over time and she would be looking to see how the Festival office might support the Friends in this ambition.

8) The provisional date for the next AGM was set for Friday 8 March 2023.

9) Any other business

Pete Spriggs indicated to the meeting that trustee Joan Matthews was stepping down from her role as Events Secretary after very many years of enthusiastic service. She was fulsomely thanked and presented with a bouquet of flowers.

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

There followed a well-attended piano at major Op18 No.6 and Smetana's String Quartet No.1 'From my life') and for those who wanted to stay, lunch at the Lee Wood Hotel.