



**Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Buxton International Festival (FoBIF) Charitable
Incorporated Organisation,
held at 11.00am on 4 February 2021
by Zoom**

Some 60 members had indicated their intention to attend and some 55 or so signed in for the meeting.

Pete Spriggs, Chair, opened the meeting at 11.00am by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending by Zoom.

1) Apologies for absence

Esther Allbutt, Jane Barber, Judith Hardman, Jim McQuaid, Brian and Sue Spriggs, Phyl Swindlehurst, John Hilton, Anne Kitchin, Alexander Thurlow, Trish Kilpatrick, Maureen Walkden and Barbara Stringer.

2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2020

The minutes were unanimously approved, subject to two minor date corrections to paragraph 3. **Proposed: Louise Potter. Seconded: David Brindley**

3) Audited Financial Statements, including the Trustees' Annual Report for Year ended 31 October 2020

The report had been made available on the website. Pete Spriggs gave a brief commentary on the annual report. No significant questions of the Report and Financial Statements were raised, save that David Brindley queried the absence of comparative financial figures from the previous year. It was pointed out that this was in fact the first AGM of the new CIO and as such it did not seem appropriate to include figures relating to the old charity. However comparative figures were available to the Friends committee and the previous year's figures were available on the Charity Commission website. This satisfied the query raised.

Particular points made drawn out of the trustees' report included:

- Highs of the year included the National Achievement Award for Georgiana from the 2019 Festival and the 40th Birthday of the Buxton Friends.
- The principal low of the year was the cancellation of the 2020 Festival on account of Coronavirus, disappointing but unavoidable as it was.
- The generosity of the Friends however had come through and this resulted in some £30,000 of ticket sales converted into donations.
- Communications throughout the year had proved tricky initially but had improved as the year progressed with BIF Digital going online over the Festival period and continuing and the distribution of the Overture newsletter.
- The year had seen ongoing close working and collaboration between the Friends, the Festival Company and Board and the Festival Foundation.
- A welcome was offered to Ettie Williams who had been an observer of the CIO Board since February 2020 and, subject to election later, would join the Board of

the Friends. A farewell was given to Harriet Grubb, who had left the Board but only to take up a position as marketing manager within the Festival office. She was thanked for all her contributions to the Friends over the years.

- Membership of the Friends was essential to the success of the organisation and it was both pleasing and reassuring to note that despite the absence of a Festival last year, membership renewals currently stood at 90% of last year.
 - A new level of Friends membership had now been introduced – ‘Next Gen Friends’ for the under 35s – and as at today, over 40 had taken up Next Gen membership.
 - In conclusion, looking forward there were reasons to be cheerful including the vaccine, planned products and events for 2021, of which Michael Williams would say more later, the fact that the Festival team is still in place and we have a huge number of loyal Friends.
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- Tony Parsons, as Treasurer, then introduced and summarized the published accounts drawn to 31 October 2020, the first set of accounts for the new charity. Of particular note was the fact that £110,000 had been given as support to the Festival office last year and this left a surplus within the Friends of £120,000 at the end of the year, a healthy sum to support the Festival both for this year and into next year.

The Trustees’ Annual Report and the Audited Accounts (as attached) were unanimously approved. Proposer: Jane Davies. Seconded: John Gaunt.

4) Proposal to appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity’s Auditors for 2020-21

It was unanimously agreed that we should appoint Laytons of Buxton as the charity’s auditors for 2020-2021. **Proposer: Philip Barton. Seconded: Kate Redford.**

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

6) Election of Committee Members (trustees) for 2020–21

- John Gaunt and Tony Parsons were stepping down by rotation and were offering themselves for re-election. On a proposal from Philip Barton, seconded by Helen Brown, they were unanimously re-appointed.
- Edna (Ettie) Sophia (Labuschagne) Williams, who had attended Board meetings over the past year as an observer, was put forward for election to the Board. On a proposal from Chris Baker, seconded by Louise Potter, she was unanimously appointed.

7) Festival 2021 update

An update on the plans for the 2021 Festival were given by Michael Williams and Adrian Kelly respectively. The Festival is currently planned to run between 8 and 25 July 2021 but final decisions remain to be made depending on the progress of recovery from the pandemic, what may be allowed and what will be feasible to put on. It is however critical that whatever is put on must be financially viable but also up to the professional standard expected of performances at the Festival.

8) The provisional date for the next AGM was set for Friday 11 February 2022.

8) Any other business

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 the broadcast of an interview of new Festival Board member Michael Harper by Michael Williams.