

**THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB OF STRATFORD UPON AVON
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2021**

The Annual General Meeting of the Shakespeare Club was held online via Zoom Tuesday, 5th October 2021 at 7.15 pm. Members only. Voting was by a show of hands.

MINUTES

1. **Election of Chair for the AGM.** Susan Brock was nominated by Sylvia Morris, seconded by Chris Walsh
2. **Apologies for absence.** No apologies had been received.
3. **Minutes of the last AGM** (8 October 2019)
The Chair noted that there had been no AGM in 2020 because of the pandemic.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
The Chair explained that most of the business was covered in the Secretary's report. Several projects had to be abandoned because of the pandemic including the new Place project, Garrick Jubilee and Birthday celebrations.
5. **Treasurer's report.**
The Treasurer updated figures on memberships which had risen to 54. The Chair proposed that the accounts be accepted. Seconded by Karolyn Brookes The proposal was passed nem con.
6. **Election of Honorary Treasurer.**
Ms Christine Walsh (first elected to the post in 2017) is willing to stand again. The Chair proposed that she be re-elected. Seconded by Sandra Macdonald. The proposal was passed nem con.
7. **Appointment of Honorary Accountant.**
The Chair proposed that H.L. Barnes be invited to continue to audit Club accounts. Seconded Sylvia Morris. The proposal was passed nem con. The Chair asked the Treasurer to send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Club.
8. **Election of President 2020/21**
The Chair noted that the election was for the season 2021/2. She proposed Professor Lena Orlin for President. Seconded by Helen Hargest. The proposal was passed nem con.
9. **Election of Administrative Secretary.**
Mrs Sylvia Morris (first elected to the post in 2018) is willing to stand again. The Chair proposed that Sylvia Morris be re-elected. Seconded By Lindsay Macdonald. The proposal was passed nem con.
10. **Election of the Committee.**
The Chair thanked Roger Taylor and Melissa Mailer-Yates, who were standing down, for their service as committee members. The following committee members were willing to stand again: Janet Anslow, Mary Reardon, Eileen Geldard, Sandra Macdonald, Susan Brock and Helen Hargest. The Chair proposed that these members be elected en bloc. Seconded by Gill Ashley-Smith. The proposal was passed nem con.

The Chair reported that one nomination had been received: Margot Galvin, nominated by Sandra Macdonald, seconded by Eileen Geldard. The Chair proposed that she be voted onto the committee, seconded by Helen Hargest. The proposal was passed nem con.
The Chair pointed out that there were still two vacancies and other members of the Committee would be retiring soon as a result of the 5-year rule instituted in 2017.
11. **Report on programme for the forthcoming 2021/2 season.**
The Chair reported that the position of Programme Secretary was currently vacant following the retirement of Mary Reardon from those duties. She and the Administrative Secretary were

arranging the programme for the coming year. She announced the title for the first meeting of the season on 12 October talk by Sarah Dustagheer 'Would I were in an alehouse in London! I would give all my fame for a pot of ale and safety' (Henry V 3.2.12-13) in which she would offer some thoughts on Shakespeare and his attitude to the city, his canon and its representation of London. The speaker for the February meeting would be Darren Freebury-Jones, Lecturer in Shakespeare Studies, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, who would talk on 'Thomas Kyd: Shakespeare's Tutor'. The full programme for next season would be made available to members shortly.

12. **Report on Club activities for 2020/1** The Administrative Secretary spoke to her report. The Chair thanked her for service above and beyond. It was entirely down to her that the Club had been able to continue to offer talks though the past year and into the future. The vote of thanks was seconded by Sandra Macdonald.
13. **Report on Website and Communications.** The Chair noted this was included in the Secretary's report on Club activities..
14. **Any other Business.** The Chair reported that no items had been received in advance of the meeting.
Sandra Macdonald asked whether Club meetings would be live in the new year. The Administrative Secretary reported that the presidential evening would be live on 12 January in the Parish Hall but no plans had been made for meetings after, that though it was hoped that they would be live. The University of Birmingham was not currently accepting bookings for the Shakespeare Institute from external users. The matter would be discussed at the next Committee meeting at the end of October.

The Chair thanked the Club's committee, officers, members and visitors who had supported its talks in the last 18 months. A Club was only as strong as its constituent parts and it had successfully come through some testing times.

The meeting closed at 19.45.