



# DEWSBURY ARTS GROUP

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No: 1161083

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025  
at The David and Judith Wood Theatre Lower Peel Street Dewsbury

**Present on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025:** Mark Bailey, Chair.  
Emma Thompson, Treasurer.  
Malcolm Parkinson, Secretary.

Maria Bailey, Nick Bailey, Simon Beaumont, Ian Bowers, Nick Cunliffe, David Fletcher, Jacky Fletcher, Cath Leverton, Stuart Marshall, Carol Parkinson, Stephanie Roe, Zahoor Sakharker, Melanie Wilks and Iain Winstanley.

**Apologies for Absence** were recorded from: Rebecca Lightowler, Paul Lightowler, Matthew Bailey, Denise Bedford, Margaret Biglands, Kat Brook, Richard Brook, Katherine Buxton, Richard Buxton, John Crawshaw, Pat Crawshaw, Stephen Ellis, Stacey Fleming, Chris Fletcher, Mary Follows, Steve Goddard, Andrew Leverton, Sue Saville, Lynne Stainthorpe, and Lacey Telford.

A quorum of 22 was not present. The meeting was therefore adjourned to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**Present on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025:** Susan Saville, (in the chair).  
Emma Thompson, Treasurer.  
Malcolm Parkinson, Secretary.

Becky Ashwell, Matthew Bailey, Nick Bailey, Simon Beaumont, Denise Bedford, Ian Bowers, Lindsey Brown, Katherine Buxton, Richard Buxton, John Crawshaw, Patricia Crawshaw, Nick Cunliffe, Stacey Fleming, David Fletcher, Jacky Fletcher, Stuart Marshall, Jean Parkes, Carol Parkinson, Stephanie Roe, Zahoor Sakharker, John Scrinshaw, Lynne Stainthorpe and Iain Winstanley

**Apologies for absence** were recorded from: Juergen Muenstermann, Judith Wood, Paul Goulden, Kat Brook, Richard Brook, Cath Leverton, Andrew Leverton, Mark Bailey, Maria Bailey, Helen Holdsworth, Chris Fletcher, Alex Lindley, Lacey Telford, Rachel Wood, Sue Morgan, John Lewis, Barbara Lewis, Rosa Grasshoff, Hans Duerr and Margaret Duer.

**Minutes:** It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024, as circulated, be taken as read.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report, as appended, was presented to the meeting by the Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the Accounts for the year ended 31st May 2025, as appended, were distributed to all present and the full annual report had been made available on the Group's website with a hard copy available at the meeting. Emma Thompson read out her report as appended. It was RESOLVED that the Accounts for the year ended 31st May 2025 be adopted.

- Premises Report:** The Premises Report, as appended, was presented to the meeting by the Buildings Officer Simon Beaumont.
- Chair's Remarks:** The Chair's Remarks, as appended, were presented to the meeting by Susan Saville.
- Election of President:** The proposal to abolish the role of President was defeated. It was RESOLVED that Carol Parkinson and Malcolm Parkinson be elected as joint presidents for the 2025/2026 season.
- Election of Officers & Committee:** **Officers & Committee**  
It was RESOLVED that the following Officers be elected on bloc:  
Chair - Mark Bailey  
Vice-Chair - Susan Saville  
Treasurer - Emma Thompson  
Secretary - Malcolm Parkinson  
Art Secretary - Zahoor Sakharkar  
Publicity Officer - Paul Lightowler  
Youth Theatre Administrator - Maria Bailey  
Buildings Officer - Simon Beaumont

Nominations for Committee were Ian Bowers, Iain Winstanley and Nick Cunliffe, Matt Bailey having withdrawn his nomination prior to the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the nominees be elected on bloc.

- Any Other Business:** Stephanie Roe raised two items of Any Other Business.
1. Audition panels. Stephanie Roe is President of Batley Gilbert and Sullivan Society. She outlined the practice at Batley which is that the audition panel is made up of the director, musical director and three independent panellists of requisite experience from outside the society. She wanted to know what the policy was for audition panels at the Group. Without mentioning names or giving specific examples Stephanie said that people had said to her that they were unhappy with audition outcomes. Susan Saville explained that the policy was that an audition panel consists of the director and two others. Members other than those on the committee are considered. In past years, for example, Terry Ryan and Margaret Biglands had made valuable contributions as had others. Susan went on to say that nobody is offered a part before auditions. Stacey Fleming recounted her experience of being on a panel and in particular how robust the discussion was. Iain Winstanley had auditioned for four productions in the past year and recalled that the panel was different each time; certainly, it was not the same old faces. David Fletcher said that discontent with audition outcomes is a common feature of not only Dewsbury Arts Group but of every other theatre group and society.
  2. Making committee meeting minutes available to members. This was the practice at Batley Gilbert and Sullivan Society. The consensus was that there was no objection in principle. However, Stacey Fleming suggested that access to them should be elective. The matter was referred back to the new committee for discussion as to how minutes could be made available on request.

Signed as a true record

Dated