**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday September 3rd 2020**

*Meeting opened at 19:30*

**Attendees** – T Larsen, R Larsen, R Harries, P Thornton, K Watson, S Foster

***Apologies*** *– none received*

**1 Welcome and Presentation**

The Chairman reminded the meeting of housekeeping rules and actions in the event of an alarm sounding, then gave an introduction to the WPPA.

This included it’s history, along with a summary of progress and actions to date

**2 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday April 4th 2019 were unanimously accepted

**3 Matters Arising from Minutes Of Last Meeting**

*None raised*

**4 Fundraising**

It was explained that to date, the WPPA has available funds of c£198,000 for the construction of the Viewing Platform (Stage One of the proposed Pier) This leaves an approximate shortfall of £55-£60,000 to finance the project, allowing for some inflation in material costs over the accepted quotation, and unforeseen costs. This sum above is in addition to the £30,000 raised, which has funded various items, which included required Reports, Licences, and Planning Applications.

Fundraising this year (2020) had been seriously curtailed with the Covid pandemic and lockdown

**5 Financial Statement**

The Treasurer presented the statement of accounts and report of the Directors for the year ending 31/12/2019

The amount raised to date is from various sources, such as fundraising, sponsorship, membership, plaques etc

*The WPPA is a not-for-profit Company – ie all funds raised go towards the project, there are no Shareholders*

At the end of July (2020) there were 157 Business Sponsors, and 321 Members

The financial statements were unanimously accepted (*proposesd-RH, seconded-PT*) and duly signed by the Treasurer and Secretary ready for filing

**6 Current Situation**

The Chairman explained the situation and progress to date.

We now have the Pier towers on a 99 year lease from ERYC, though there has been no response from them or the supplier of electricity regarding charges. Meter readings were noted on take-over of the Towers. The planned Opening Weekend in April had to be cancelled, due to the current Lockdown situation. However, they have been open since June (2020) seven days a week, with planned Weekends-only from September 6th. PT suggested we check the Lighthouse model for seasonal opening times, though it was noted that we do have several bookings already made for weekends throughout the rest of this year. We will continue selling plaques, souvenirs, memberships to raise funds, and items of stock which sell well were discussed and explained.

We have sufficient volunteers to man the Towers through the rest of this year, and thanks for their efforts were recorded. The Chairman has added the Volunteer Hours to the Spreadsheet

One of the main priorities now is for the WPPA to focus on applying for Charity Status. Support is available to review and advice on our application document once produced.

We will continue Funding Applications, as well as fundraising, and we have recently joined “Beecan”, a portal which will help us find available funding, and for interested funders to look at organisations requiring funds. KW is at present compiling the necessary Policies to be displayed on the portal

**7 Election of Committee**

After discussing current Directors, PT was proposed *(by RH)* and seconded *(by KW)* to become a Director.

Agreed Unanimously

After discussion, it was agreed that the current Vice Chair would be curtailed in availability with his current

**AP** roles, but could be the WTC representative on the WPPA Board *(****KW*** *to send a letter of thanks to DE)*

With the exception of PT (proposed RH, seconded KW), the current incumbents were elected to retain office

**Chairman** T Larsen **Vice-Chairman** P Thornton

**Secretary** K Watson **Treasurer** R Larsen

**Fundraising** R Harries n**ews/Media** *vacant*

Other current members of the Steering Group/Committee are P Read, D Fairclough, M Fairclough

Interested in becoming members are S Foster, and H Heeeley, to be invited at the next WPPA general meeting

**8 Any Other Business**

**AP** We had a fundraiser booked at Sand-le-mere, December Barn Dance. **RH** to check if this is still viable

S Garner has offered to produce an EP of songs written with RH poems as Lyrics in aid of fundraising

Would winter cause any issues with damp in the Towers? Will be monitored and stock removed.

Stock items were discussed, with best-sellers, and plans for more postcards to be available. There may be a copyright issue with the aerial view of Withernsea (*The one on the hoardings opposite the Fishing Compound*)

It was noted that the majority of people going in the Towers tend to be visitors, or ex-Withernsea people, many of whom have never seen the Towers open/accessible before.

Does the WPPA have any further projects planned for the Promenade. The “Withernsea Weather Wizard” is the latest addition under the auspices of the WPPA – situated on the Fishing Compound fence line

The Chairman then thanked all attendees for coming, and the meeting was closed

*Meeting closed at 20:32*