

Streetbeaters Annual General Meeting

Monday 9 June 2008

Minutes

Present: Paul White (Chair), Emma Beattie, Christina Clarke, Anne Flood, Stuart Flude, Darroch Hall, Susan Holt, Sue Kenney, Grace Lee, Chris Maines-Beasley, Penny Middleton, Joanna Newcombe, Janet Overton, Emily Pippard, Judith Rust, Edd Shaw, Alex Tustin, Ema Wright

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

2 Minutes of previous meetings

Received:

- a) Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 17 April 2007
- b) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 February 2007

Agreed:

The above minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

3 Presentation of annual report

Received:

Streetbeaters Annual Report 07-08

Noted:

That numbers at Beatniks & Bang On groups have continued to be low, despite significant efforts by the tutors to promote the groups in local schools. Worldbeaters has been stronger in membership and has a good repertoire of pieces. Thanks were noted to Sue for organising t-shirts for Worldbeaters and to Fin for designing the logo. Thanks were noted to the tutors for their continued efforts for all Streetbeaters groups.

4 Presentation of audited accounts

Received:

Streetbeaters Accounts 2007-8

Agreed:

That the accounts be approved with the exception of an amendment required in the breakdown of income between subscriptions and gigs, these figures have been combined on the accounts provided.

ACTION:

Updated accounts to be presented at the next Committee Meeting.

5 Election of committee

Paul White tendered his resignation from the position of Chair. This resignation was accepted by the Committee. It was also noted that the current Secretary & Treasurer (not present at meeting) were no longer able to continue in these roles therefore all Officer positions on the Management Committee were now vacant.

The Officer roles were summarised as follows:-

Chair – responsibility for overseeing meetings and liaising with Secretary & Treasurer regarding the group's activities.

Treasurer – to bank weekly fees, update balance sheet, keep on top of account information and submit to accountant at the financial year end for audit.

Secretary – responsibility for handling correspondence, circulating information and keeping all members of the group up to date.

Concern was expressed regarding the time commitments required to fulfil the role of Officer. The group were asked to be considerate to any nominees for the Officer roles and all be prepared to contribute and assist with work required to maintain the group. It was suggested that regular Committee meetings take place and that a contacts list be put together which the Officers could use to put out a call for assistance in a particular area or on a particular task. Several members of the group indicated they would be happy to contribute wherever possible.

It was noted that, the most urgent task for the future of the group is to put in a grant application. The Streetbeaters tutors agreed they were happy to do this on this final occasion but would not be able to undertake this task for the group in future. The tutors confirmed they would be happy to work with anyone on the Committee in preparing the current grant application, so that members of the group could gain experience in this area for future applications.

Nomination of Officers

The group agreed the following:-

Christina Clarke elected as Chair
Susan Holt elected as Secretary
Joyce Matthews elected as Treasurer

Committee membership

In addition to the Officers elected above, the following was agreed as the Management Committee Membership:-

Anne Flood
Grace Lee
Penny Middleton

Joanna Newcombe
Janet Overton
Emily Pippard
Judith Rust
Edd Shaw
Ema Wright
Paul White (Co-opted member)
Sue Kenney (Co-opted member)

Account signatories

Currently Anne Flood & Judith Rust are authorised signatories on the account and confirmed they were happy to continue in this role. It was noted that it would be useful to have additional signatories to avoid difficulties if one of the signatories was unavailable at any time. Joyce Matthews as Treasurer would become a signatory, Grace Lee confirmed that she would also be happy to act as signatory. It was noted that the group's bank statements are currently being sent to the home address of the previous Treasurer.

ACTION:

Judith Rust agreed to get the relevant form to change the account address details and signatories.

6 Worldbeaters Proposal for Streetbeaters 08-09

6.1 Proposal

Received:

Worldbeaters Music LLP proposal for Streetbeaters 08-09

Noted:

Although the tutors enjoy working with the children who attend Beatniks and Bang On, these groups are no longer sustainable due to low numbers. The intention had been for the groups to be funded 50% from Arts Council and 50% from members' subs but this has not been achievable. It was noted that the situation was similar in the group run by the tutors at the Customs House. Feedback has suggested turn out would be higher if the groups could run on a Saturday but it is not possible for the tutors to commit to running sessions at weekends.

The proposal tabled detailed a number of actions necessary to ensure the future of the group. The key points were summarised as follows:-

- End the Beatniks & Bang On groups with the last session taking place on 16 June 2008 and run only the Worldbeaters groups from 23 June onwards.
- Based on running Worldbeaters only, tutor costs for teaching would be £160 per session, based on 2 tutors at £80 each. The tutors explained they cannot run the group with just one tutor and further details of this are given in the Proposal document.
- Tutor costs for gigs and busks would be £200 in total, although the tutors pointed out that many of the Streetbeater's gigs come to Worldbeaters Music directly and may already include the tutor's fee. The fee for gigs would have to be considered on an individual basis, depending on the funding of the event. For busks, the tutors stated that

- they would not take £200 if the group didn't make that much at the busk, although from experience it seemed unlikely the money raised would be less than £200.
- The Worldbeaters group will need £7020 per year to run, based on no teaching during school holidays (though teaching would continue through July, into the beginning of the summer holidays).
 - The membership fee to increase from £4 to £5 with a discount available for anyone to book a half-term block of sessions. A block booking would equate to £4 per session.
 - The group to aim for one busk per term as a means to promote the group and recruit new members.
 - The group to aim for three promotional performances per year at events which are felt to be a good opportunity to raise the profile of the group. These gigs may be unpaid but tutors would need to be paid for these events, at the rate of £200 in total.
 - New leaflets are needed and should be handed out at gigs to promote the group. The Arts Development Team at the Sinfonia Centre can help the group get a badge to allow distribution of flyers or this can be obtained via the Civic Centre directly. It was also noted that smaller business cards may be a quick and economical way of promoting the group and could be carried by all members to hand out to anyone who is interested.

Agreed:

The actions suggested above and in the Proposal were agreed by the group.

6.2 Marketing

Noted:

Chris & Alex offered to continue to design the flyers and posters. Paul also offered to be involved in this. The group felt that one person needed to take responsibility for having an overview of marketing and following up any actions.

Agreed:

Anne Flood will oversee marketing activities.
Penny Middleton will take responsibility for press releases.

6.3 Interim arrangements pending additional funding

Noted:

With only the Worldbeaters group running, the current funds will last until the start of July. There are gigs happening over the summer which will bring in additional income therefore the tutors agreed to be paid in arrears for sessions during July, to allow the group to continue to run and prepare for summer gigs.

6.4 Funding application

Noted:

The key priority to ensure the future of the group is to submit a funding application. The tutors will be able to do this on this occasion if no-one in the group can take this forward at present.

6.5 Rehearsal venue

Noted:

The Sinfonia Centre will be unavailable for some time and an alternative venue is needed. This would need to be at no cost as the current budget does not allow for room hire costs.

Agreed:

Alex to follow up the possibility of the Black Swan.

Penny to follow up the possibility of the People's Theatre.

All members of the group to consider any options on alternative venues (Age Concern, Mear House was suggested as one option).

7 Any other business

7.1 Use of Streetbeaters drums

Members of the group queried the fact that on occasion the Streetbeaters' drums, housed at the Sinfonia Centre, were being used by other groups. The tutors confirmed that these occasions were rare but that the original equipment was donated to the project on the condition that the Council could use the drums at any time.

7.2 Bang On and Beatniks members

It was queried whether Bang On and Beatniks members could now join Worldbeaters. It was confirmed that Worldbeaters had always been open to ages 10 and upwards and therefore the younger drummers would be welcome at Worldbeaters.

7.3 Gigs

Forthcoming Streetbeaters gigs:

Saturday 5 July – Cookson Parade, South Shields

Thursday 31 July – Tommy's Party, South Shields

Sunday 17 August – possible gig, TBC

Agreed:

That the Secretary would produce regular updates with information for all members of the group on forthcoming gigs.

8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Management Committee was confirmed as Monday 23 June, 6.30pm in the Sinfonia Centre.