

Constitution of *The Phoenix Performers*

Updated April 2023

1. Name

The name of the group is the *Phoenix Performers*. Hereon referred to as 'the group' within this constitution.

2. Aims of the group

Our key aims are to:

- (a) Ensure that the performing arts remain accessible to all, regardless of background or social situation.
- (b) Provide access to high quality workshops and sessions.
- (c) Create a friendly, welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone is treated equally and with respect.
- (d) Produce high quality theatrical productions in collaboration with the young people.

We believe that every young person who comes through our doors deserves the right to be seen, to be heard and to be accepted. We believe that every young person should be allowed a safe, supportive space to express themselves and discover who they are. We believe that every young person should have access to affordable, high quality performing arts workshops. They should be allowed to perform on stage regardless of their background, personal situation or experiences. No young person should ever be deprived of the arts.

We provide affordable, high quality performing arts workshops to the young people of North Denbighshire and the surrounding areas. We produce two full scale productions a year, with smaller displays and events spread through the year. We also provide pastoral support through our sessions to our members who may be struggling outside of Phoenix. We provide a safe space for our young people to express themselves and escape the real world.

It matters because without affordable access to the arts, our leaders wouldn't be where they are now. We are passionate about opening the world of theatre up to everyone. It matters because the arts opens doors, boosts confidence and allows the freedom to be who you want to. It provides escapisms and opportunities to forget the stresses of the real world.

3. Powers

To further these aims, the group may exercise the following powers:

- (a) To raise funds and receive contributions, donations, funding and otherwise;
- (b) To promote and publicise the group's activities;
- (c) To run performing arts based workshops and sessions weekly in order to carryout the organisational plan;
- (d) To produce theatrical productions;
- (e) To hold meetings;
- (f) To pay the necessary expenses involved in running the group;
- (g) To undertake any other lawful activity to further the group's aims.

4. Membership

The Phoenix Performers are a fully inclusive organisation and welcome members of all backgrounds to join. No one will be discriminated against. We welcome and encourage and diverse and inclusive membership of young people, leaders, volunteers and trustees.

We will work collaboratively with the young people and welcome their input and ideas. The young people may be represented at meetings by members of the 'Youth Committee'. The Youth Committee will be welcome not be able to vote during any meetings that they are present at, but their input will be considered prior to voting.

Membership of the group shall be open to all persons in sympathy with the group's aims and willing to abide by the group's constitution. The group will be non-party-political, non-sectarian and will be committed to non-discriminatory practices and equal opportunities.

The Phoenix Performers leadership team will be made of up of trustees, leaders and volunteers. Each member of the adult teams will have voting rights during meetings. The trustees main roles will be to hold the leadership team accountable and ensure that they are working to meet the aims and objectives of the Phoenix Performers. The chair will always have casting vote in the event of a tie.

There will be

5. Meetings

General meetings will be held as often as necessary and at least six times per year.

The trustees will meet a minimum of four times per year. The Senior Leadership Team will meet a minimum of eight times per year. The leadership team will meet a minimum of six times per year.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the group shall be held every year. All members shall be notified not less than fourteen days before the meeting. An agenda will be circulated. Business of the AGM will include; electing members; reporting on the activities during the year; amendments to the constitution; and approval of the group's accounts. Members of the public, including parents/guardians will be invited to attend this meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be held at the chair's discretion or by a written request to the chair of not less than four Members. The meeting shall be called within twenty-one days of such a request and appropriate measures taken to inform all members. An EGM should only consider the business specified in the request.

6. Finances

- (a) Any money raised shall be used to further the aims of the group and for no other purpose;
- (b) A bank account will be opened in the name of the group;
- (c) The account will require two signatures on any cheque or other bank document (except paying in slips). There will be four signatories available to the treasurer for signing cheques.
- (d) A simple written note of the group's financial position, will be produced and available at all meetings;
- (e) A statement of accounts verified by a competent person who is independent of the group shall be tabled at the AGM;
- (f) No member shall derive any financial benefit from the group, except for payment of 'reasonable expenses';
- (g) No money will be paid out in the name of the group without a receipt being presented.

7. Amendments to the constitution

If amendment(s) to the constitution are necessary, members will be informed in writing and given the opportunity to consider and vote on the amendments. The amendment(s) will be made if there is a two-thirds majority vote of members.

8. Dissolution

If the committee, by a simple majority, deem it advisable to dissolve the group, it shall call a meeting of all the members of the group, giving not less than 14 days notice. If such a decision is confirmed by a majority of those present, then all the assets of the group shall be transferred to another local voluntary group or community group with similar aims.

Adopted on 6th June 2023

The original version of this constitution was adopted as the Constitution of the Phoenix Performers on 19th September 2007. It was amended on 6th June 2023 and adopted as the new Constitution of the Phoenix Performers from this date to reflect organisation changes that have been made since the adoption of the constitution in 2007 (available upon request).

Signed: *J T Jones* (chair)

Signed *GM Hailwood* (secretary)