

Minutes of Cowton Arts & Theatre Society Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7:50pm on Monday 28th July 2025

Committee Members Present: Nick Smith (Chairman), John Shields (Secretary), Susan Shields (Treasurer), Elaine Simpson, Pat Watson, Geoff Green, Jane Green, Tracey Cramond

Apologies: Margaret Walton

Agenda Items:

1. **Murder Mystery:** NS stated it was hoped to put this on around September but following JG's suggestion at the AGM it was agreed that it would be moved to late November/early December and would have a Christmas element added to it. This would replace the Dickensian Event which has run for the past two years and would be rested this year. JG offered to direct the show and GG offered to carry out work on amending the script. ES and TC also offered to help GG with this. JS agreed to send the script out to those offering to help but asked that no changes be made (beyond making notes) at this stage so a system could be put in place to prevent multiple versions of the script circulating.

ACTION: JS to send out draft script to GG/JG/ES/TC. Item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

2. **2026 CATS Performance:** Several possible options were presented to the committee. After discussion it was agreed that NS would provide a draft script for Ali Baba. He informed the meeting that this had enough parts to accommodate anyone who wanted to take part but could be reduced if this proved necessary. It was agreed that the 2025 performance was a little too long at 2 ½ hours and that this be carefully monitored this year. NS informed the committee that Fiona Yorke would not be directing the performance this year and that Rebecca Morgan had not yet confirmed whether she would be able to participate. CATS committee wish to formally record their grateful thanks to both Fiona and Rebecca for all their hard work and support over the past few years.

ACTION: NS to forward draft script to JS.

3. **Video of the 2025 performance:** It was agreed the video show for the cast would be shown on Saturday 20th September beginning at 7:00pm in the village hall.

ACTION: JS to book the village hall and send out notices to all the cast.

4. JS explained that the delay in getting the 2025 performance video ready was due the video camera at the back of the hall not being switched to record mode (operator error and not a problem with the camera). This meant a significant amount of editing was necessary to put a video together. After discussion it was agreed that CATS consider purchasing a suitable video camera for use at future events and potentially for members to hire. It was agreed that this be able to support Wifi/Bluetooth with a view to being able to broadcast performances into the back room to help cast members prepare for entry to the stage. JG asked how much this would cost. JS explained that he would need to research a suitable model but it was likely to be £250+.

ACTION: JS to research a suitable camera and feed back at a future meeting.

5. **Projector:** The issue of recent problems with the projector rebooting during performances was highlighted. JS explained that the only solution was to replace the existing model which was now obsolete. He explained that he was exploring a potential solution but could not expand further at this time. He hoped to have an answer in the near future but also stated that the cost of a

replacement was approximately £1000 and that CATS should keep this in mind in case the option he was looking at did not come to fruition.

ACTION: JS to research a suitable camera and feed back at a future meeting.

5. Next Meeting: The date of the next meeting to be agreed.

6. AOB: No other business was raised and the meeting closed at 8:15pm.