

# **Minutes of Cowton Arts & Theatre Society Annual General Meeting held in East Cowton Village Hall at 7:30pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

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

**Apologies:** Margaret Walton, Cristina peacock

**CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS** – Nick began by thanking the committee for their input, hard work and support over the past year. He also stated that since the last annual general meeting (AGM) we have staged several very successful productions. The Dickensian Christmas night was once again, very successful and the recent pantomime, Treasure Island...Sort Of, has been described again by members of the community as our funniest production so far.

Nick went on to thank the cast, directors, producers and backstage staff stating that, without the help of these volunteers, none of these productions could take place. He particularly thanked Elaine Simpson and her team of costume makers for once again producing fantastic costumes. Nick mentioned that CATS have had a number of new volunteers and their input has been most welcome. CATS has more actors and other volunteers than we have ever had before and we hope to keep everyone's continued support. Nick confirmed that CATS is looking at another larger scale Pantomime to ensure everyone gets a part.

**LIGHTING** – John explained that a separate controller and wiring had been added to the lighting system to enable the spotlight to operate independent of the main stage lighting. This is not yet installed due to the refurbishment work but, now that this is complete, it is hoped the installation can be progressed soon. John also noted that the only other outstanding work was the installation of ducting to hide the lighting cables which again has been waiting for the refurbishment to be completed.

**HEARING LOOP** - John explained that the hearing loop installation has been completed and formally handed over the Village Hall Committee for use by the community. John asked that thanks be recorded for the invaluable help of Geoff Simpson and John Yorke in completing this work.

**CATS COMMITTEE** – In accordance with CATS constitution, the current committee members stood down but were re-elected unopposed by those present. Nick will remain as Chairman, John as Secretary and Susan as Treasurer these having been proposed and seconded by those present. Margaret Walton was unable to attend the meeting but had stated prior to the AGM that she was content to remain on the committee. Cristina Peacock has sadly resigned from the committee due to other commitments. Nick asked that the thanks of all the committee be recorded for all Cris' help and it is hoped she may be able to return at some time in the future. This leaves four (4) committee posts vacant.

ACCOUNTS – the accounts for the year had been completed by Susan Shields (Treasurer) and agreed at a recent CATS meeting. The highlights were read out at the AGM and are available (on request) for anyone who wishes to examine them. Jane Green is currently carrying out an annual audit of CATS accounts.

PERFORMANCES - It was agreed that CATS would stage further performances next year. John explained that emails etc had been send out seeking volunteers for another 'Cowton has Talent' as agreed at last years AGM but unfortunately there was not enough acts to put on a show.

After discussion it was agreed the Dickensian Christmas event would be rested this year and both Geoff and Jane were thanked by the committee for all their hard work in producing this event over the past two years. Jane suggested that the Murder Mystery be moved to the end of the year to fill in for the Dickensian event. It was agreed this was an excellent idea and the details be discussed at the ordinary CATS meeting which would follow the AGM.

The 2026 pantomime was briefly discussed and it was agreed this be progressed at the ordinary CATS meeting following the AGM.

AOB - No other business was raised and the meeting closed at 7:50pm.