

Minutes of Cowton Arts & Theatre Society Annual General Meeting held in East Cowton Village Hall at 6pm on Friday 26th May 2023.

Committee Members Present: John Shields (Secretary), Susan Shields (Treasurer), Jane Green, Elaine Simpson, Pat Watson, Bridget Stewart, Margaret Walton.

Apologies: Nick Smith (Chairman)

Agenda Items: John (acting Chairman) opened the meeting by thanking all who attended. He then gave a rundown of CATS events last year and outlined those proposed so far for the coming year as follows:

LIGHTING - The recently updated/installed stage lighting system in the village hall was discussed. A new spotlight costing £250 had been added along with associated wiring. It was agreed that this project had been a success and John informed the meeting that this has now been formally handed over to East Cowton village hall committee (ECVHC) for the use of the community.

SOUND SYSTEM - John explained the installation of the new sound system was being taken forward with the help of the ECVHC. Once the speakers have been secured in their new positions the wiring would be addressed, after which the project would be complete and handed over to ECVHC. John also stated that £566.01 remained in the budget to pay for the installation of the necessary wiring and ducting to complete the project.

CATS COMMITTEE - John explained that new committee members, and anyone wishing to take part in or help with CATS events, were desperately needed and those present were asked to consider getting involved - even in a small way. John explained that all CATS committee positions were currently available as this was the AGM and welcomed anyone who wished to put their name forward for a post. There being no nominations, the current committee was proposed for re-election unopposed. This was agreed and accepted by those present.

John stated that he would check to see whether Nick wished to remain on the committee/as chairman and would confirm by as soon as possible. Jane Green stated that if the post of chairman was vacated, CATS would convene an extraordinary meeting to elect a new one.

Cristina Peacock and Geoff Green volunteered to join the committee. This was accepted by those present.

ADDENDUM: Nick has since confirmed that he is happy to remain as chairman. Nick also raised the issue of numbers on the committee. (John to check and follow up).

4. ACCOUNTS - CATS accounts for the year had been completed by Susan Shields (Treasurer) and agreed at a recent CATS meeting. These are available (on request) for anyone who wishes to examine them. Geoff Green asked whether the recent production had returned a profit for CATS. John explained that the amount raised was £835.50. £255.44 had been paid out to cover materials etc but the bill for the hire of the village hall had not yet been received. CATS had kept ticket low on this occasion to encourage attendance following the Covid 'lay off'. As a consequence, CATS were not expecting to make a profit this time but hoped to break even.

PERFORMANCES - It was agreed that the performance of Wind in the Willows had been a success and had attracted a number of new members both on and off stage. It was also agreed that CATS would stage another performance next year and that an email would be sent out to all those whose names were on the CATS mailing list inviting suggestions regarding what they would like to see. A list of existing (previous) performances, for which scripts already exist, would be outlined in this email to give an idea of the types of show CATS has put on in the past. Replies would be considered and a show selected at the next CATS meeting. Additional events will be considered at future CATS meetings.

No other business was raised and the meeting closed at 7:30pm.