

Minutes of Cowton Arts & Theatre Society Meeting held in the Beeswing at 7:30pm on Monday 29th January 2024.

Committee Members Present: Nick Smith (Chairman), John Shields (Secretary), Susan Shields (Treasurer), Elaine Simpson, Pat Watson, Geoff Green, Jane Green, Margaret Walton, Cristina Peacock

Apologies: Bridget Stewart

Agenda Items:

1. Dickensian Christmas Event. General feedback from those who attended the event was extremely positive with many saying how much they enjoyed it. Thoughts will be given to running a similar event later in the year. **ACTION: ALL** - to be considered later in the year. GG asked if the event had been profitable. SS informed the committee that there was an outstanding bill for the use of the village hall but she did not expect this to be high. It is likely that a small profit has been made because the ticket prices were kept low due to this being a new event.

2. Village Hall Lighting. JS explained that the new spotlight has been installed, which completes the lighting project. It was agreed that the East Cowton Village Hall Committee (ECVHC) be contacted formally to confirm the system was now formally handed over to the them. **ACTION: JS** - email ECVHC to formally hand over the system.

3. Village Hall Sound System. JS explained that the speakers are now installed (with grateful thanks to John Yorke and Jim Crabbe) in the previously agreed position in the roof of the VH. JS explained that the wiring would be 'fixed' rather than removable and that, before the wiring starts, the ECVHC be formally asked to confirm they are content with the installation and that it meets their H&S/insurance requirements. **ACTION: JS** – email ECVHC and get confirmation before proceeding with wiring the system in.

4. Hearing Loop. It was agreed that the new hearing loop system, purchased for use in the VH, be handed over to ECVHC. **ACTION: JS** – email to ECVHC to arrange to hand the system over.

5. Projector. Recent problems getting the backdrop projector working were discussed. JS stated that Tim Stewart had offered to have a look and try to identify the problem. It was also agreed that the costs of a new projector be investigated. **ACTION. JS/SS** – to check prices and report back at the next meeting.

6. March Production. NS gave an update on progress and stated things were on course. He also informed the committee that it was likely a mid-week rehearsal would begin in March on the run up to the performance. JG informed the committee that she had been asked about the possibility of putting on a matinee. JS stated that he too had been approached about this. After discussion it was agreed that due to cast members time/work commitments, it was not possible to put a matinee on at this time.

Tickets – Number of tickets to be made available was set at 80 for each night. These would be priced at £7.00 for adults and £3.00 for children (under 16) and would go on sale in early March. **ACTION. JS** to print the tickets. **PW** to confirm the village shop will sell tickets. **JS** to check with the Beeswing. **JS/ES** offered to be named contacts for tickets.

Publicity – An article would be placed in the Parish Magazine. Posters etc would be produced and put up in various locations in early February.

ACTION. JS to provide article for the Parish Magazine and complete the posters.

Bar – A limited bar would be available at the production. Red/white wine and soft drinks would be available with suggested donations per glass.

Consideration will be given as to whether bottles or boxes of wine would be used. **ACTION. CP** to check with Ross/Mark and John/Paul and agree which night each would operate the bar. **JS/SS** to check out the cost of bottles/boxes of wine and also soft drink options.

Raffle tickets – raffle tickets would be available with a number of prizes on each night (Fri/Sat). Members of the committee stated they would provide prizes for both nights. **JG/PW** offered to run the raffle and cover the door for both nights.

7. AOB – The new curtains were discussed and it was agreed that consideration be given to making a donation from any profits made at the March production towards a curtain tracking system for the VH. JS informed the committee that the cost of a suitable camcorder to film the production would be high considering it would only be used a limited number of times. ES asked whether it would be possible to get a professional video recorder in to carry out this task. After discussion it was agreed that this too would be expensive and that it would be better to see if any of those involved in the production had access to a device that could be borrowed. **ACTION.**
– To be followed up at the next rehearsal

8. Next Meeting – The next will be agreed at a later date.

9. No other business was raised and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.