



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2009 at Little Timbers, Baskerville Lane, Lower Shiplake

Present: Mark Manson, Gareth Jones, Hilary Tucker, Liz Thomas, Fred Lawson, Beryl Lawson, Steve Matthews, Angela Jones, Angela Cadman, Neil George

Apologies: Liz James

1. Pantomime Review (and miscellaneous points arising from this)

It was felt that the Panto had been a very successful production which had generated some fresh momentum for the Society. Fred stated that he was very grateful for the good teamwork from both front of house and backstage personnel. He also felt it was good to have had the younger players holding fairly senior roles.

Thank you to Fred for volunteering to direct the Panto this year.

Gareth reported on the financial aspects of the Panto and copies of the production budgets and figures were distributed/discussed at the meeting. A copy of these is annexed to the original minutes.

We made just under £1000 profit on the Panto (although there may be a few wardrobe bills still to come in from Cheryl) so ultimate net profit may be slightly lower.

Gareth to check with Cheryl as to any items she still needs to claim

Gareth reported that the Society is in a good financial position with about £6400 in the bank.

Mark proposed a donation to Dunsden Church and this was agreed. We agreed a figure of £100.

Gareth to find out exactly who to make cheque payable to, and to organise this

We have sufficient funds for a contribution to the re-flooring of the Memorial Hall stage.

Gareth to ask Steve whether there are any costings and we can then consider contribution to this work.

Mark proposed a donation to the Cricket Club (as a member was very helpful in travelling and opening the garage on our set-build day). This was agreed at £20.

Gareth to organise this

Storage space is an ongoing issue and we may need to spend on this in the future – this was recognised and discussed.

It was agreed that we need to set a date in due course to sort out the tower again and re-box and re-sort the costumes and materials stored there.

Mark suggested that we levy a nominal charge (£5 was suggested) when allowing others to use our disposable glasses so that we can replenish these as required. This was agreed.

We discussed the ongoing need for more new members in the Society, plus the best ways of tackling this. The direct approach was ultimately felt to be most effective, and would be pursued at the time of the AGM. We would also put notices of the AGM in the shops at Shiplake and BH to give publicity.

Fred and Beryl kindly offered to host a summer event in their garden by the river. We agreed to discuss this further at the committee meeting following the AGM so that it could go onto the events calendar and so that early arrangements could be made. Thank you to Beryl and Fred for offering to host this.

Beryl and Fred to raise this at committee meeting following AGM and all to discuss at that meeting

2. Evening Event – One Act Plays etc

Mark reported that we had a date booked at the Memorial Hall for one night – Friday 27 March. We needed to decide whether we wanted to keep this date and provide an evening of entertainment.

There followed a detailed discussion concerning the types of entertainment and food that could potentially be offered.

The following points emerged:

1. If this went ahead (still to be decided) we would aim to put on 'Last Tango in Little Grimley' as a full play as opposed to a rehearsed reading. This would utilise the existing cast in view of the short lead-time (Angela, Mark, Gareth and Liz T) as they were already familiar with most of the lines.

2. We would need to add another one act play. Liz T had found a play which she thought might be amusing and suitable – The Friday Night Radio Show – the script being available to read on the internet in full. This would need a director and a new cast from the membership.

4. It was agreed that everyone would read the play over the following day or so and let others know their thoughts via email. Steve Matthews was potentially interested in organising this (with help) and would meet with Liz T this week to discuss. Steve initially would look at the script and put some 'names to characters' as an initial step. If this was to go ahead, the membership would need to be emailed with character lists and asked to reply re expressions of interest in specific roles. If this was to proceed, Steve would draft an email and prepare a synopsis of each character.

5. It was agreed that if this went ahead, it would not be approached as a big fundraiser but that the tickets would be modestly priced at, say £5. There could be a bar or people could be asked to bring own drinks. It would either be best to just have snacks on tables (e.g. crisps) rather than food as such or maybe consider buying in a fish and chip supper or asking people to bring a picnic. No final decisions were made but must be addressed if this goes forward.

6. We would need some rehearsal time in the Hall.

Mark to call Nancy to see whether the Thursday/Weds of that week are free (or another suitable night)

3. AGM 2009

We agreed to hold this on 6 April 2009 at 7.45pm in the Church Rooms

Mark to call Rosemary and reserve the room

We agreed to hold a committee meeting after the AGM to discuss future events etc

Hilary would organise all the formal notices of AGM and sort out nominations etc

The meeting closed with thanks to Gareth and Angela for their hospitality.