



Shiplake and Dunsden  
Dramatic Organisation  
[www.shaddo.org.uk](http://www.shaddo.org.uk)

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 25 February 2008 at Little Timbers, Baskerville Lane, Lower Shiplake**

**Present:**

Mark Manson (Chair), Liz Thomas, Hilary Tucker, Gareth Jones, Angela Jones, Fran Bodenham, Angela Cadman, Liz James

**Apologies:**

Neil George, Chris Irons, Fred Lawson, Steve Watkins

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Mark opened the meeting with thanks to Gareth and Angela for hosting.

**1. A Christmas Carol – review and feedback**

This was discussed at length. The main points arising from the discussion were as follows:

It was felt that this had gone very well and much positive feedback from members of the audience had been received. The consensus was that the production had gone as well as we could have expected, and that an alternative to a Panto had been good for the society. It was a shame that not more tickets had been sold.

It was also felt that the children/young adults in the cast/crew had enjoyed their participation and had learnt a lot from it. This also afforded them a different kind of experience than a Panto in this respect. It was also great to see so many young people at the cast and crew meal.

Gareth commented that he was happy with the casting and that he had felt some performances had been the best from members to date.

It was felt that maybe the "unsuitability" for young children had led to lower ticket sales (e.g. compared to a Panto) and there had been some feedback from the shops to this effect.

There was also some feeling that the pricing may not have been quite right (to include the mice pies and wine) and that some would have simply preferred a 'normal' bar. On the other hand, it was accepted that this was 'part' of the overall event.

There was also feeling that we need a bigger leaflet drop next time and that it would have been nice to have had more post-event publicity (e.g. no review in the local paper this time).

It was agreed that there needs to be a strong focus on publicity for future events, acrylic leaflet dispensers (e.g. on the MH wall or on a pub bar) being one idea mooted.

This again relates to a key need to expand the society membership base, with people 'owning' the major roles such as wardrobe etc. to spread the load.

It was felt that the organisation side of things had been very demanding on a few key members especially for the 'crunch' period of 4-6 weeks before the production – the problem,

as discussed, being that we are too small a society for the load to be spread very widely as it would be in a bigger society.

Overall it was felt that this had been an enjoyable and successful production and 'something different/worthwhile' for us to have tackled.

## 2. Financial Report (Gareth)

Gareth went through this in detail.

Copies of the report were circulated at the meeting and a copy is attached to the minutes on file.

Gareth will now finalise the books and pass them to Linda to audit ready for the AGM.

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| <b>Action: Gareth</b> |
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## 3. Election of Memorial Hall Committee Representative

Gareth confirmed that he was agreeable to continue with this role.

Gareth was re-elected with thanks from the committee for his work on this over the past year.

## 4. Proposed Membership Changes (Gareth)

Gareth made some proposals for changes to the membership structure of Shaddo. Everyone on the committee agreed to think about these in advance of the AGM. Any substantive changes in membership structure will be discussed and agreed at the AGM.

(a) Gareth suggested that we have an additional category of Student Member. This could carry a lower subscription rate, or it could carry the same subscription as at present (junior or adult depending on age) but giving the possibility of imposing a varying subscription level at a future date. Gareth will recommend this third category at the AGM. Everyone to think through the implications – e.g. would this category carry voting rights? What level of subs would be appropriate? Would students living out of the locality need to be 'associate student' members?

(b) Gareth also suggested that we have a database/ mailing list to go beyond 'members' (e.g. drawn from past members and supporters) to be used for publicity and information purposes. Participants could, e.g. be termed 'friends of Shaddo'. This was felt to be a good idea – if this were only to be a mailing list, then this would not require approval of the AGM but could be decided by the committee.

(c) The levels of subs should be thought about – maybe everyone (even those purely 'helping' with things such as front of house) should pay a flat £5.00 charge and then pay rehearsal fees if performing. Maybe there should be a family membership grade? Would this encourage more parents to join or not?

(d) Should people be members in order to audition for example? Should there be separate categories of paying and non paying members (the latter being those who help with the bar etc)?

Gareth agreed to check the insurance implications – do only 'members' have cover? Does this mean 'paying members'? or does the cover extend to all helpers?

The meeting did not reach a final conclusion re the above (beyond the fact that a non member mailing list would be a good idea) as this is a matter to be pondered in advance of the AGM.

It was agreed that any committee member who wanted to put forward ideas for discussion pending the AGM would e-mail the others.

**Action: Gareth (re insurance) and all committee (re possible changes to membership structure and subs)**

#### 5. AGM 2008

It was agreed that we would aim for Monday 21 April 2008 at 7.30pm.

It was agreed that Mark would check the White Hart as a possible venue and advise Hilary.

Hilary would deal with all the constitutional notices prior to the meeting.

**Action: Mark and Hilary**

#### 6. Future Events 2008-2009

There was much discussion culminating in an agreement that this needed a lot of serious thought by everyone on the committee prior to the AGM.

The major problem (as discussed re A Christmas Carol) is that in order to move forward we need a wider pool of members to take on the key roles of director, producer, wardrobe and so on.

We need someone to come forward to organise an event so that the other roles can then be put into place (all committee to think what key roles they could take responsibility for).

Everyone to think what they could take on, and what additional time they could commit.

In principle it was agreed that we would like to stage another Panto in early 2009 but this will be dependent on the above for it to happen.

It was suggested that we might put on a 'Little Grimley' event with 2 x one act plays.

Angie Cadman asked whether Shaddo might participate in an event on 8 November 2008 for Wilf Owen's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Dunsden Church. This would be a sketch which we would write and perform. We agreed to think about this.

It was agreed that we would all give this very serious thought before the AGM (there would be a committee meeting after the AGM to consider future events, but if in the meantime anyone wanted to organise an event, they would e-mail the rest of the committee). If there was a proposal to discuss before the AGM, then there could be another committee meeting before the AGM.

**Action: Everyone**

#### 7. Action before the AGM

In addition to the membership and committee notices, Hilary would draw up a broad list of past members etc and send out an e-mail to try and get additional support for organisation of events and key roles.

**Action: Hilary**