



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 5 October 2009 at Little Timbers, Baskerville Lane

Present:

Mel Crowder, Angela Cadman, Steve Matthews, Dominic Mayer, Gareth Jones, Fred Lawson, Liz James, Beryl Lawson, Liz Thomas (in attendance), Hilary Tucker, Mark Manson (Chair), Angela Jones, Penny Caudle

Apologies:

Chris Irons

1. Metamorphosis

This was discussed in detail and was felt to have been a most successful event, both in terms of the quality of the production and the support it received. It was felt that Dominic had done a brilliant job in pulling this together and making it happen. It was also felt to have been very good for the Society to have tackled something different this time (stretching people beyond normal comfort zones etc). There had been great feedback from many members of the audience including emails full of praise. Overall then, well done to Dominic for suggesting this and carrying it through and to all concerned for their hard work.

Terry James is writing a review for the Henley Standard. Dominic will let Terry have suitable photos to submit with the review.

Action: Dominic and Liz/Terry James

Gareth reported on the financial position. He did not yet have all the details of expenses for the venues but other costs were roughly as follows:

Costume (Mark)	£60.00
Props	£0.00
Equipment	£40

Gareth thought that we would break even, which was very good. We had sold about 140 tickets across the 2 nights, again felt to be very good. We had budgeted on about 50 per show so this exceeded expectations.

Ticket sales and publicity had gone well.

We did discuss some further ideas re publicity (to take on board for another time). Suggestions that had been received or were made included:

- To include an email address for tickets on material as well as web (as some people reluctant to phone)
- Maybe sell through the shops as well
- Maybe reserve tickets via email and pay on the door
- More posters and possibly boards (although the latter expensive)
- Estate Agents sponsorship of boards (felt problematic)
- Committee members to email all friends/supporters (have a supporter list?)
- Slips on chairs asking for supporter details for a supporter list?

2. Panto/Play evenings

It was agreed that we would not put on a Panto this year – we did not currently have enough manpower to take charge of all the main production areas needed for a Panto.

It was agreed that we would keep the Hall dates and go for something else. This would be a play evening on the Friday and Saturday nights (2 nights – no matinee) with 2 'light' plays. They would need to involve a reasonable number of members.

Ideas were discussed and it was felt that we might go for 'Gosforth's Fete'+ maybe 'Last Panto in Little Grimley'. The Little Grimley play could be directed by the cast and the other play would need less direction than a Panto.

Gareth and Angela agreed to start the ball rolling and would put out an email to all members asking them for expressions of interest so that they could get a cast together.

Action: Angela and Gareth Jones

We do need to find others to take on stage management responsibilities (not so much for January but for larger productions). Gareth outlined the problems and the reasoning behind this. Mark agreed to ask Tony Knights whether he might be interested in taking this role – he has experience of productions + carpentry skills etc

Action: Mark Manson

It was agreed that we would also go for a second contrasting play evening in March 2010 – this would involve a more serious play (one full length play) as opposed to 2 one-act plays. This would be on 26/27 March 2010.

It was felt that the play needed to involve a reasonable number of members and a range of ages (a little on the lines of Brush with a Body). It would be good to involve some young members if possible (as per Scrooge). It should be a single set play if possible.

Steve Matthews and Mel agreed to look at scripts and let committee know what they had found so they could read them through. Hilary agreed in particular to read scripts.

We would action this on an ongoing basis rather than waiting for next meeting.

Action: Mel, Steve, Committee

3. Social evening at Fred and Beryl's house

This would be held in June 2010 and would be brought forward to future agendas.

Action: Hilary

4. Costume Sort-Out

These do need to be sorted and storing them is still an issue.

It was agreed that Mark would move the boxes to his shed and then we would all go round and sort them out one evening – listing them, disposing of any that are no good and maybe photographing them with a view to hiring them out on the website (Gareth). Mark would sort out an evening and let everyone know.

Action: Mark and Committee

5. Membership Renewals

It was agreed (after discussion) that we would automatically extend current memberships to August 2010 – next renewal date- in view of no Panto etc. Hilary would write to all members explaining this and updating them generally.

Action: Hilary [done]

6. Calendar (Penny)

Penny will progress this

Action: Penny

7. Social Events

It was felt that it would be good to have a cast and crew meal for M/Morphosis. Mark would look into this and get in touch with everyone.

Action: Mark

8. AOB

Mark suggested that we might buy a trolley to store and move the stage floor from garage to hall. We will think about this as moving the boards can be a hassle – on the other hand it is fine as long as there is enough manpower and the boards are all marked.

Penny asked whether we might provide some entertainment at an 'Alice in Wonderland' day being held at the Herb Farm in Sonning Common by her employer on 6 March 2010. The idea would be for us to wear themed costumes and then put on a short Alice n Wonderland play. It was thought that this was a good idea in principle but that the price of costumes could prove problematic. We would need to give this further thought.

10. Next meeting

This will be on Tuesday 10 November 2009 – 7.45pm at Liz James' home – Gateways, Station Road.

The meeting closed with thanks to Angela and Gareth for hosting.