



East Cowes Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of **Theatre Committee** held at The East Side Curve, York Avenue, East Cowes **Thursday 18th January 2024 at 5pm**

Present

Chair: Cllr Palin **Councillors:** Cllr Reardon, Packham, Lake, Love **Clerk:** S Chilton **Also present:** Becky Savage, Tressa Lambert, Dave Priddle

TC1/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Becky Savage who would be late owing to a traffic accident holdup.

TC2/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 3.1 There were no declarations of non-pecuniary interests.
- 3.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

TC3/24 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meeting of 2nd November 2023.

TC4/24 FINANCE

4.1 The Council discussed the financial statement for the Christmas panto and agreed that there were items included in this year's expenditure that would not be required in the next production. Recycling costumes was another idea for reducing costs, as was technician costs. KL said that he felt all equipment should belong to the Council and be covered by the council's insurance rather than borrowing equipment. The final balance was disappointing given the effort everyone had put into the shows. It was generally agreed that ticket prices needed to be increased to enable future investment to be made in the theatre. And that passing agents fees onto tickets should be agreed.

TC5/24 AMY WHITE THEATRE

- 5.1 The panto had gone really well and was less stressful than previous years.
 - 5.2 More efficient and appropriate storage was under way below the stage.
- BS described a system that could be programmed with presets to suit any type of show and that would enable anyone to use the lighting without it having to be adjusted. This was called a Magic Cue that runs on Microsoft, and a laptop. Additional costs would be for Stage Gear to rig the lighting and patch it into the system, but that would provide a multifunction system that any hirer could use without interfering with the lighting. Microphones were discussed but BS stated that they could limit the hire charge to 50% of this year's cost and that it would still be cost effective to hire them rather than purchase them outright. The committee felt that the funds that had been received from the Amy White Committee could be used to purchase these items which would help to reduce running costs for future productions. It was proposed that

the Magic Cue system and a laptop be purchased and that Stage Gear be asked to provide a quote for rigging and patching the system. BS, DP and the Facilities Officer could meet to discuss and finalise these matters. Stage Gear quote to come back to Full Council in February

Dates for the mid year show and Christmas panto were agreed apart from one setup weekend where an alternative had been suggested.

It was suggested that ticket prices increase to £10, this was proposed and seconded.

Resolved: To purchase the Magic Cue system and a laptop to run it on to a maximum of £2000 and to request that Stage Gear provide a quote to undertake the light rigging and patch into the new system. To increase ticket prices to £10.

TC6/24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that it is in the public interest that the press and public are excluded. (1960 Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act s1 (2)). Supervision issues were discussed.

Meeting closed at 5.55pm

Signed:

Dated: