



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 23rd October 2025 at 5pm**

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs Reardon, Lake, Palin, Warleigh-Lack, Love

Also Present:

Amy White Theatre: Tressa Lambert, Becky Savage

Deputy Clerk: C Jones

TC22/25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dave Priddle and Councillor Lake, who joined the meeting later

TC23/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Cllr Reardon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of East Cowes Community Partnership and East Cowes Business Association.

2.2 No written requests for dispensations were received.

TC24/25 MINUTES

3.1 Item 3 was postponed as Councillor Lake was arriving later and had to be present to sign these off.

Resolved: To defer to later in the meeting.

TC25/25 FINANCE

4.1 The Deputy Clerk explained the Qtr. 2 budget report and the Committee noted the report.

Resolved: To note the Quarter 2 budget report.

TC26/25 CHRISTMAS PANTO

5.1 It was reported that ticket sales for the upcoming pantomime have exceeded the halfway mark, with figures currently ahead of the usual pace. The digital display in Lake is scheduled to go live over the weekend.

The committee considered a request from B. Savage to purchase a theatre gauze with rail as a cost-effective alternative to repeated hire. It was confirmed that the proposed equipment would not interfere with any existing stage infrastructure. B. Savage agreed to enquire whether any members of the pantomime cast would be available to attend the Town Council's Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch-On event in character. Confirmation of availability will be provided in due course. A proposed list of new stock for refreshments to be sold at the pantomime was presented to the committee. Following review, the committee made several amendments and agreed to proceed with the purchase of selected top-up items. B. Savage and Tressa reported that Ollie and Dan intend to bring a volunteer to assist backstage, which may allow Councillor Palin to support the servery should he wish to volunteer. The committee then discussed volunteer availability for the two scheduled performances on Saturday, 13th December, and the two performances on Sunday, 14th December. B. Savage enquired about the possibility of placing a temporary shelter outside the east side curve, adjacent to the fire exit, to create additional space. The committee noted that health and safety considerations must be reviewed by the Facilities Team. B. Savage noted that, in previous productions, the theatre incurred a fee for each ticket sold via Ticket Source. For the current pantomime, an individual booking fee has been added to each customer's purchase to cover these associated costs, thereby supporting the theatre's profit margin. B. Savage confirmed that it would not be possible

to offer a fifth performance on the Friday evening due to the technical complexity of the production, which presents certain logistical limitations. As a result, a firm commitment cannot be made.

5.2 The committee reviewed the quotation presented and discussed the potential future purchase of its own microphones. It was noted that the current quotation appeared to be reasonable and cost-effective

Resolved: To proceed with the purchase of the theatre gauze and seek quotations from B. Savage for a compatible rail. Additional refreshment stock will be purchased for resale during performances, and a rota for server sales has been established. The Facilities Team will assess the feasibility of placing a shelter outside the east side curve, with outcomes to be shared with B. Savage and Tressa. The committee also resolved to accept the quotation for hire of the wireless microphone system.

TC24/25 MINUTES

3.1 This item was discussed when Councillor Lake was present, the Committee approved and signed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd October 2025.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 23rd October 2025 were approved and signed.

TC27/25 FUTURE PERFORMANCES – 2026

6.1 The committee discussed potential performances for 2026. B. Savage and Tressa proposed three theatre-style acts: a Shirley Bassey Tribute and Swing Band on 7 March (£900), a Live Music Quiz Night on 24 October (in-house, no cost), and The Corrs Tribute Band on 7 November (£450). The committee agreed that discussion regarding the potential use of a bar at future events will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Resolved: To proceed with the three proposed performances for 2026 and to include discussion on bar provision at future events in the next agenda.

TC28/25 STORAGE

7.1 B. Savage and Tressa requested permission from the Town Council to access the basement storage area to review costumes and equipment, with the intention of clearing out items no longer required and potentially selling surplus stock. They also requested a small budget to purchase plastic storage tubs for organising and storing remaining items.

Resolved: Permission was granted for B. Savage and Tressa to carry out a clear-out of basement costumes and equipment. Following this, Tressa will liaise with the Town Council regarding the purchase of plastic storage tubs.

Meeting closed 6.01pm