



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 2 February 2022 (via Zoom)

Present:

Cheryl Milne (Chair), Hilary Tucker, Simon Classey, Gareth Jones, Angela Jones, Liz James, Henry Loud, Neill Wilkinson, Ashley Wright, Pam Hudgell

In attendance:

Becky Ilderton, Barbara Salisbury

Apologies:

None received

Cheryl opened the meeting with thanks to all for attending.

[NB: the meeting items were taken in a slightly different order to that set out in the agenda].

1. Storage at the Memorial Hall

Gareth and Cheryl summarised the background to this issue. Essentially, it had previously been decided by the Committee that renting additional (container) storage space at the Memorial Hall for props, costumes and stage items, was not the preferred option. It was recognised that, instead, SHADDO needed to be more selective going forward about what was retained and what was thrown away, so as to keep only those items of real use and value. It was recognised that there was always limited time after any production for consideration of this issue.

It was therefore agreed that:

- A working party would be established to go through all the items currently stored at the Memorial Hall and to assess which could be discarded and which should be retained. The focus would be placed, in particular, on clearing the second floor of the tower.
- Gareth would check with Lottie (Memorial Hall Manager) as to suitable weekend dates when the working party could access the Hall and as to any additional areas which could be safely utilised for storage (e.g. under the stairs).
- Gareth would identify three or four Saturday afternoons, between about 1.00pm and 4.00pm for this "clear-up". He would let Hilary have the dates so she could contact the Committee for their availability. Becky also agreed to help and it was agreed that Charmaine would be contacted, as she would be key in relation to props.

Action: Gareth, Hilary, Committee

2. Memorial Garden

Gareth and Angela reported that they had removed the diseased box hedge, with help from several other Committee members, and had been advised the area should be left for a few weeks to "settle" before re-planting.

Gareth and Angela also reported that they had identified a suitable replacement [*Ilex crenata luxus*] which had been recommended to them by an adviser at a garden centre. This hedging had the appearance of holly but was not prickly and was relatively slow growing.

It was agreed by the Committee that this would be a suitable replacement and that Gareth and Angela should proceed to purchase it for planting.

Angela and Gareth also agreed to clean and polish the garden memorial plaque and to add further support for the *pyracathus*.

Action: Gareth and Angela

3. Winter Production

Cheryl updated the Committee on the views received via email from production team, cast and crew concerning the potential staging of the postponed production in 2022. This included availability of all personnel for the potential dates under consideration in March, April and June 2022.

There then followed a detailed discussion of the best way forward. Becky and Barbara (Directors) also attended the meeting and participated in the discussion.

The following points were decided by the Committee as a result:

- The March dates were not viable as they were generally felt to be “too soon” given the continuing Covid numbers (several key cast members were also unavailable).
- Unfortunately, the proposed dates in April 2022 were not viable either, as several key cast and crew members were unavailable.
- There were also several key cast and crew members unavailable for the proposed dates in June 2022 (Jubilee time). Other factors relevant to June-time were felt to be the potential impact on audience size/ticket sales due to summer holidays plus the potential impact on junior cast members due to the school examinations window.
- Dates beyond June had not specifically been investigated as an option but there were issues with other clashing events, plus holidays, over the summer period. It was felt that September would then be the time to start planning a 2023 Pantomime.

It was recognised that the directors, production team and cast had all put a huge amount of commitment into the production so far and that the rehearsals had been going very well. It was stressed that the decision not to go ahead with the production in its current form was entirely due to events beyond everyone’s control, principally those concerning health and safety of cast, crew and audience. Alternative events for 2022 would be discussed at the next Committee meeting (see below) so as to give maximum opportunity for everyone to be involved in SHADDO events going forward.

The Committee agreed that:

- Sadly, the production would not go ahead in its current form during 2022.
- All cast would be offered a full refund of performance fees paid to date (Hilary has a record of these).

The next steps were as follows:

- Cheryl and Ashley (as Producers) would advise production team, cast, crew and SHADDO members of the decision to cancel the production in its current form.

- Cheryl and Ashley would thank everyone for their (hugely appreciated and valued) efforts to date and offer a refund of all performance fees that had been paid. They would ask the cast to let Hilary and Gareth [via Shaddo Admin] have their bank account details for this purpose. Hilary and Gareth would then deal with the refunds.

Action: Cheryl, Ashley, Gareth, Hilary

Liz would deal with publicity issues following this decision. This would include all publicity such as posters, website(s), news items, Facebook and any other sources. [Gareth is happy to make website changes on the SHADDO and Shiplake Villages websites on receiving instructions from Liz as to changes required].

Action: Liz [and Gareth]

The Committee would all think about ideas for potential alternative “small-scale” productions in 2022 – ideas mentioned were joining in with any Memorial Hall/village Jubilee celebrations, a short play, a variety show and a murder mystery evening. This item would be fully discussed at the next Committee meeting (see below).

Action: Committee

4. Winter Walk 2021/22

Pam and Liz reported that there was a gallery of exhibit photos on the SHADDO website. The event had gone very well, although the weather had not been kind!

Cheryl thanked Liz and Pam for organising this event and thanked everyone who had participated by making an exhibit. It was recognised that this event involves a lot of advance organising.

Liz, Pam and Angela agreed to make a checklist which would be useful for anyone organising a future walk of this nature and which could be kept on Dropbox for reference. This would contain advice about timing the organisation of the event and the steps required. Some of the documentation produced for previous walks (e.g. the maps) could perhaps be adapted and re-used.

Action: Liz, Pam and Angela

5. Social event in 2022

This was discussed at length and it was agreed that a SHADDO social event would be held in 2022. This would involve cast, crew, families and SHADDO members of all ages. One suggestion was for a “Bring and Share” style event, possibly in the Memorial Hall and possibly involving some informal entertainment items such as “walkaround” magic or singing.

It was agreed that this would be fully discussed and taken forward at the next Committee meeting (see below).

Meanwhile, Cheryl and Ashley would mention the intention to hold the forthcoming social event in their letter about the Winter Production - thus covering three items:

- Future of postponed Winter Production
- Refunds of performance fees for those who had already paid these
- Social event

6. AGM 2022

Hilary reported to the Committee regarding dates of past AGMs (mainly held in March or April) and formalities/notice required beforehand.

It was agreed that the AGM arrangements would be discussed and finalised at the next Committee meeting (see below).

Hilary would then deal with the AGM formalities after the next Committee meeting.

Action: Cheryl, Ashley, Hilary

7. Next Committee Meeting

It was agreed that this would be held **via Zoom on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 7.30pm.**

This meeting would focus on three key issues:

- The SHADDO social event (see above)
- The 2022 AGM (see above)
- Potential “small-scale” production for later in 2022 (see above)

Hilary would send out minutes of this current meeting and deal with the agenda/Zoom link for the above.

Action: Hilary

Cheryl closed the meeting with thanks to all for attending.