



Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 3 January 2022 (via Zoom)

Present:

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

In attendance:

Pip Collings

Apologies:

None received

Cheryl opened the meeting with thanks to all for attending. She stressed that the specific purpose of the meeting was for the Committee to decide the best way forward with the Winter Production in the light of the recent (high and rapidly increasing) Covid figures. Broadly speaking, the options open to the Committee were to:

- (1) Proceed with the production as planned in January 2022 (with Covid-specific measures in place as appropriate);
- (2) Postpone the production (either to a specific date or more generally - provided this was practically possible);
- (3) Cancel the whole production.

Cheryl reported that she and Ashley (as Producers) had held a meeting with Barbara and Becky (Directors) and they had all discussed the way forward.

The cast and crew had also been consulted on the options (above) and been asked to give their views.

A number of thoughtful and very helpful replies had been received from members of the cast and crew and the Committee took these fully into account. Most respondents were in favour of postponing the show to a later date (but not cancelling it altogether).

The Committee identified and discussed the various issues at length, some key ones being:

- Potential problems in the event of a government lockdown, or government Covid rule changes, which could be at short notice;
- Potential problems if cast or crew members had to isolate (we do not have understudies and there would be huge problems if key crew members had to isolate);
- Potential resultant risks to the quality of the production;
- Potential health risks to cast and crew during both rehearsals and shows;
- Potential effect of Covid risks on ticket sales, audience figures and financial viability of the show (although it was agreed that any decisions would not be based principally on financial considerations);

- Potential health risks to the public/audience members;
- The risk that the show could be, or be seen to be, a potential “super-spreader” event in the local community.

It was noted by several Committee members that there had been a notable downturn in pre-sales ticket enquiries this year.

It was recognised that the rehearsals had been going very well prior to Christmas and that the cast and production team had put in a huge amount of effort so far. Any Committee decisions were being made reluctantly and in the best interests of all concerned.

After much discussion and deliberation, the Committee decided that:

- The Winter Production would be POSTPONED (not cancelled) and would not proceed in January 2022;
- All planned rehearsals would also be cancelled at the present time;
- Hopefully the show could proceed at a later date in 2022, when the Covid situation was more settled and case numbers hopefully lower.

The next steps were agreed and would be actioned by those listed below:

- Liz would contact those who had ordered and paid for tickets (mainly cast and crew) and would let them know that their ticket moneys would be refunded **[ACTION – LIZ]**
- Gareth and Liz would sort out the refunds **[ACTION – GARETH AND LIZ]**
- Liz would action the necessary publicity changes through the Shiplake Villages website, the Shaddo website, and by overwriting any posters which had been put up. Liz would also inform the shops **[ACTION – LIZ]**
- Cheryl and Ashley (as Producers) would message production team, cast, crew and membership to let them know about the postponement. They would do this the next day (4/01). They would stress the show was not cancelled but postponed to a later date which would be decided in due course, and that they would keep everyone fully informed **[ACTION – CHERYL AND ASHLEY]**
- Gareth would release all the January bookings with the Memorial Hall **[ACTION – GARETH]**
- Cheryl and Gareth would discuss possible alternative dates with Lottie (Memorial Hall Manager) taking into account the specific requirements of the production over the whole of the relevant period. The possible period for initial consideration would be March/April/May 2022 **[CHERYL AND GARETH]**
- A further Committee Meeting would be held in the near future (over the next few weeks) to discuss progress with any alternative dates and to decide the next steps. This meeting would also deal with other Committee business which had not been considered in this specific meeting.
- Hilary would meanwhile summarise these decisions and actions as part of the minutes and send them to the Committee as soon as possible **[ACTION- HILARY]**

- Once potential alternative production dates had been identified, Cheryl and Ashley would get back to the directors, production team, cast and crew to provide further information and to ascertain whether everyone would still be available and happy to take part (it was recognised that some people might not be available for any rearranged dates) **[CHERYL AND ASHLEY]**

The meeting closed with Cheryl thanking everyone for their views and for attending.

Date of next Committee Meeting - TBC