

DRAFT MINUTES

CODS AGM 25 June 2025 at 7.30pm at the Old Town Hall, Searle Street, Crediton

Present: Ruth Towers, Lyndsey Betts, Holly Gould, Nicky Gould, Charlotte Ireland, Sadie Moden, Gill Mackenzie, Buffy May, Helen Clarke, Claire McGill, Isabella Ladd, Erin McEvoy, Tania Hayman, Ceci Brayley, Dani Gwyn, Holly Harris, Margaret Chave, Emma Cavanagh, Adam Cavanagh, Bec Gooding, Alan Quick, Cath Moorhouse, Paul Walker, Paul Tebbit, Abbie Tebbit, Graham Wallis, John Musty, Joan Musty, Alan Baker, Jo Strawbridge, Hazel Price, Jason Bomford, Simon Webber, Alan Stewart, Carol Stoye, Mike Canning, Craig Phoenix, Katt Davies-Young, Rosanna Clark, Sarah Ruby, Tasha Currie and Yvonne Youles.

1. Welcome from the President:

Carol Stoye welcomed Members and Friends

2. Apologies:

Robert Puddicombe, Rose Swift, Jane Bailey, Jenny Holt, Anne Mitchell, Anne Ward, Margaret Snow, Cathy Lamb, Sylvia Tonkin, Bridget Garrod, Vicky Lancelles, Tony Pugh, Hilary Lamb, Steph Morgan, Rachel Hayes, Gracie Pearn, Verity Cope, Adele Cox, Chris Snow and Jo Allen.

3. Presentation of the cheque to Age Concern Crediton and District:

John Musty collected the cheque for £673.63 on behalf of Age Concern. He briefly outlined the services offered by the charity.

4. Minutes of the 2024 AGM:

The minutes were proposed by Helen Clarke seconded by Paul Walker with one abstention. Majority agreed and carried.

5. Report of the Management Committee:

Carol handed over to Mike Canning to read his Chairman's report on behalf of the Management Committee. Proposed by Nicky Gould seconded by Gill Mackenzie. All agreed and carried.

6. Statements of Accounts:

Craig Phoenix presented the accounts showing last year's closing balance of £26,086.60 and this year's closing balance of £17,605.03. There was a loss of around £8000 but the accounts included payment for both the 2024 & 2025 shows to QE School. The net loss was £6000 which included £1300 on the 60th Anniversary Ball, £700 on The Men Who Marched Away and £1000 on Beauty and the Beast. The September concerts showed a profit of £2400. The store rent has risen from £2700 to £4200 p.a. This is however, the first increase since we took the building over. This year wood needed to be bought so an increase in the expenses was inevitable. Income was up 30% and expenditure was up 50%. Proposed by Alan Baker seconded by Lyndsey Betts. All agreed and carried.

Carol thanked Mike Canning as Chair, Helen Clarke as Minutes Secretary and Alan Baker for his hard work building the online ticket site, overseeing MailChimp, the website and everything technical. She also thanked Holly Harris for publicity and Yvonne Youles for covering the Secretarial role.

7. Election of Officers:

Holly Harris Chair, Lindsey Betts Vice Chair, Craig Phoenix Treasurer, Sadie Moden Secretary, Nicky Gould Minutes Secretary.

8. Election of Committee Members:

Carol Stoye, Gill Mackenzie, Paul Walker, Mike Canning and a welcome for Jo Strawbridge as a first time member. Carol added there are still spaces for up to 5 new committee members.

All nominations were proposed by Emma Cavanagh and seconded by Tash Currie. All agreed and carried.

9. Annual subscriptions/performance fee subscriptions:

Junior £10/£20

Adult £45/£35

Proposed by Craig Phoenix seconded by Lyndsey Betts. All agreed and carried.

10. To discuss any matters notified to the secretary:

Get in/Get out

Nicky Gould, who was production manager for Beauty and the Beast asked for suggestions to improve both.

Get in - more time needed, more trips in van and have a bigger lorry for the get out.

The biggest problem was lack of people who were needed at the store and at the school to unload, move, paint, assemble, clean, and organise the changing rooms.

The get out for the last couple of years was finished at the school by 2 pm and this year it was 4.30. The Exeter crew did not return home until 9 pm. We need to work

out how to streamline both the get in and out. To make it quicker more people are needed. Having two lorries was suggested with one always going out or back so

having no hanging around. It was also suggested that anything not needed for show week was returned to the store before the get out. Gill pointed out that just because

it was quiet at the school, it didn't mean there was nothing to do. Lyndsey suggested assigning teams and painting being spread between the team times. Alan said we

should have a signup sheet with the times on. Craig thought the get out was more of a problem. He thought the get in went well and pointed out there is no manhandling

as everything is on trucks now, but we still need a lot more people. Ceci said we needed a 'go to' person. It was also suggested the whiteboard should be full of jobs

that needed doing. Buffy suggested getting the list for the get in and out as early as possible.

Attracting more men

Carol pointed out that most societies are in the same boat. Jason felt the University was perhaps the exception and we should find out what they are doing in order that

we might be able to attract some men from there. Tash said we should build a

rapport with different local societies.

Crediton Heart Project

Paul Walker told us that for the last seven years the Heart Project has been trying to find a building to primarily be used as a performance space. They now have a site in Newcombes Meadow utilising the old toilet block. There has been a £15,000 architectural project, with a feasibility study in the near future. This will then go forward to a full public consultation. People are needed as volunteers to help with a questionnaire. There is a better chance of raising finance if there are a lot of replies. There is adequate parking in the area and Mike Canning has seen the plans and thought it was feasible. There is capacity for 220 seated plus an extra 80 standing. The Arts Centre and QE are also involved.

11. Good cause for 2025/26:

The Crediton Food Bank was the only suggestion put forward by Holly Harris. Proposed by Emma Cavanagh seconded by Sadie Moden. All agreed and carried.

With no further business, Carol declared the meeting closed at 8:20 pm