

CODS Committee Meeting Minutes

11 November 2025, 7.30 pm, The Three Pigs, CREDITON

Attended: HH/LB/SM/NG/GM/CS/MC/CP/TC/PW/JS

1. Apologies (SM)

All present

2. Review of minutes of last meeting: 14 October 2025

Proposed: LB Seconded: SM In favour: all

3. Actions from previous meeting

Point 5 of last meeting - SM contacted but not needed

GM contact companies house as website stopped working. YY removed as director from companies house.

4. Correspondence/communications (HH)

None

5. Treasurer's Report (CP)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EX22AhlnVEO7g0XsZycJQWhADtOlrLqx/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109857789483894893594&rtpof=true&sd=true>

£22,910 current balance

Choral profit £1,914.43 – lowest in several years

Proposed: MC Seconded: CS In Favour: all

HH asked about new members joining for Joseph - are we charging half price membership? Returning members are still charged full price.

Proposed CG Seconded: SM In Favour: all

Impact driver now purchased and with CP.

CP standing down as Treasurer at the end of the financial year.

Grant application submitted to Council £2000 for the quadrants by GM.

£1,901 left to CODS in Jean Cope's will. Suggested by Jean's family to use it for hair and make up/wardrobe - acknowledgement to go in the next three year's programmes.

6. Safeguarding update (LB)

LB completing the BOPA form.

7. Compliments/complaints/feedback (GM)

None

8. Productions / Events

1. EGM discussion (HH)

Low turn out - no quorum so couldn't vote on show selection 2027. Decided on the evening we would hear the presentations, take opinions of those in the room and would discuss way forward at committee meeting. 16 people suggested they'd like Rock of Ages; 15 said they'd be happy to do either, 1 was undecided. 9 people suggested they'd like to do Dirty Rotten Scoundrels - 1 opinion from a non-performing member. 1 would be in either show. Out of all people: 3 had a preference for DRS and 1 had preference for ROA.

GM thinks it would be sensible to do both, one in 2027 and the other in 2028. GM had conversation with Steph and said that either her nor Heather would be disappointed with whatever decision. She's also happy to have her show delayed a year. HH informing those in the room that weren't at the EGM that DRS would require more band and set. Much more simple for ROA.

HH had asked Heather and Steph about remuneration as future Directors. Their responses were as follows:

Message from Steph Morgan:

As I have little experience in directing, I do not expect to be paid as other directors might expect, however due to the amount of time which would be needed, I would appreciate a small contribution (mostly to pay for the ready meals I'm likely to consume for convenience! 🤪) I'm happy for this to be a token gesture and for committee to agree a suitable amount, as again, formal payment is not expected. If this becomes problematic due to cost of other experienced professionals such as the number of band members/increased cost for MD or choreographer, then I'm happy to discuss the gesture being utilised elsewhere if the committee feel this is necessary.

Many thanks

Steph

Message from Heather Barlow:

With regards to remuneration I want to be fair to the society and as you know have never been paid previously. I appreciate it have chosen to live away from crediton now. I also want fairness with what any others may be paid involved in the production. All that said, im not doing this to make money but would like something to cover some of my costs. I have no idea of any going rate and am happy to have discussions with the committee or respect any decision you make. Im thinking somewhere around £250-£300 if that is possible. I may be under selling my costs lol but as I said at the start I want to be fair as I know the other director won't use as much petrol.

Look forward to seeing you all at the EGM.

Heather

PW asked about license costs for both shows. Amount unknown.

GM would like to propose ROA first and DRS the following year. TC seconded All in favour.

2. Panto: 20-22 December 2025

2.1. General production update (LB)

Show almost completely set. Ceci has pulled out of doing costumes but Dani has stepped in. LB has been in contact via Sarah Ruby about borrowing Dame costume from North Tawton. GM has sketched out the trees and SG & RB have cut them out and have built the target. GM is going out to start painting.

Museum update - room is available for dates required. Cathy is donating a selection of wigs. £3,000 in ticket sales already reached.

Mike Palmer is Santa, Hazel Price is Santa's little helper. JS is going to speak to a friend about getting toys for Santa.

MC asked for the hours we need to book the OTH for from the get in on Saturday 13th December through to the get out on Sunday 28th December.

Action: NG/LB to get these times to MC asap

3. Joseph: 13-18 April 2026

3.1. General production update (HH)

Show will be done in the round. Band will be in a box. Framework will be covered in fabric. 160 audience capacity. Sound/Lighting on school stage. Need new seating plan for TicketTailor. Using lighting effects for some parts of the show. Simon Carter will make the music work with 10 plus him. 16 mics. HH has spoken to other societies - Weston hired their costumes and have quoted approx £2000 for 60 costumes. Waiting to hear back from the other Societies. Joseph coat can be hired separately.

Helen Clarke is heading up props. HH is trying to contact the Glovers for foyer decoration. On the hunt for a camel. Thanks to MC for being rehearsal pianist and helping with music. Auditions: Sunday 7th December.

4. Choral

4.1. Member feedback - approach (GM)

GM had emailed a suggested approach to the wider membership and only CP responded. Committee is happy with her questionnaire. SM to get it sent out. Responses to go to GM. (not to be the gillmack email address - use the other one). Deadline 30th November.

4.2. 2026 discussion (HH)

Nothing to discuss at present until questionnaires received.

5. Social/fundraising events

5.1. Bingo with CODS update (HH)

12 books have been pre-purchased. MC is asking about cash prizes. Full amount will be half the amount of cost of books purchased. Email Bingo and Christmas meal to Friends. Currently just gone out to membership. SM to do this.

5.2. Christmas meal update (MC)

10 people have given food choices and only 6 have paid. 21 are on the list to attend.

6. Youth Theatre Academy

6.1. Matilda Jr 2026 update (HH/LB)

All folders and scripts are available already. Formal advert for production team and will make decision at the end of January for the team. Needs to ensure that the whole team are DBS checked.

Park House Project - monthly update (PW)

for the next meeting - Hart project would like to put on some concert/performance next summer at the festival - evening in the Summer festival.

Details of future meetings

- Second Tuesday of the month:
 - 9 December
 - 13 January 2026
 - 10 February
 - 10 March
 - 14 April
 - 12 May
 - 9 June
- Send agenda items to Sadie by the first Tuesday of the month
- Papers available in Google Drive by the Friday before the meeting