

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting on Monday 15th December 2025 held at Ratham Lane, Bosham

Present: Richard Sanderson, Tony Clark, Jan Copsey, Alan Copsey, Scilla Jutton-Holland, Barbara MacWhirter, Clare Burt, Jason Burt, Margaret Edwards, Sue Wilkins and Gill Lambourn.

Apologies

There were no apologies.

Minutes of the last meeting

Committee required that a note should be added saying that Jason Burt sent his apologies to the last meeting.

Matters Arising

Pat Grindey will be asked by Margaret to compile a large poster that will be displayed in the bar inviting people to join FPs. The quiz was a great success. Jan and Alan were thanked for managing it for us.

Treasurer's Report

Tony said that the total bar profit was £554 less a few pounds fee from the card reader manager. The card reader performance was discussed. It was spasmodic in spite of the booster installed. It is useful to have as a back up that works sometimes. Buying a new clothes rail was discussed as the second one is missing bolts. Tony will try and find suitable bolts. Failing that a new rail will be purchased.

Media Report

Barbara said that the figures last month for site visits were 388 not 88. This month there were 384 sessions she said. Photos from *People* are on the website now. Information on the audition for the Spring Production 2026 was sent to Funtington Parish Council.

Health and Safety, Technical Matters

Andy Horner has offered to do a fire risk assessment for us. This will be accepted. Sue will contact him. Emergency exit procedures were run through as normal at the last technical rehearsal before the run of *People*.

Members Update

We were reminded that anyone who is cast in the next production needs to be a paid up member. Gill will remind the cast of this when they meet in January and Margaret will nudge those who are slow to respond.

Major Productions

- **Autumn 2025 *People* directed by Alan**

There has been a lot of positive feedback from the audience about how much they enjoyed the play. Alan said that he too had enjoyed directing it. There were difficulties as there was no designated costume person. He was grateful to Pat Thompsett for her valuable contribution to this. Alan also felt that it was a lot to ask of Tony to be both Stage Manager and cast as it was quite physically demanding. Tony managed it very well though. The complex nature of the script made it particularly challenging for the prompter as it was hard to know where to take the cast back to if something was missed out.

Some members of the audience were wearing coats indoors as they were cold. Tony said that there was as much as possible switched on to compensate for the double doors being open for half an hour and it did warm up quite quickly.

The number of programmes and flyers was discussed. Apparently we ordered 700 flyers and 200 programmes. It was suggested that we ask Pat Grindey to order 500 flyers and 180 programmes for the next production.

- **Spring Production 2026**

Gill will direct *The Perfect Murder* by Hugh Janes. She has cast it and has a number of backstage people already. Jan will publish a list of both in the Newsletter. Gill was able to use all who auditioned apart from two people who will both have a two-week holiday when Gill would be doing run throughs. She had to go outside the Players for some roles to people who she has used before. She has Helga as Stage Manager, Jan will design sound, Alan will design lighting, Kim will do costume with help from a new lady, Tracey. Sue will do Box Office and will organise it to work round her holiday plans for spring. Scilla will do the bar. We need an FoH Manager. Lisa will be contacted and asked to do this. Gill does not have a props person but said that there are no items that are difficult to source.

- **Candidates Autumn 2026**

Two into One by Ray Cooney was read on 5th December. Director would be Allan Brown. The playread of this went well and it was agreed that it is a very funny play. It is a fast-moving farce involving a complex set that needs several doors and different rooms. Committee felt that we do not have the capacity now to construct such a challenging set and that the play would not work without this. Doing a fast moving full-blown farce was considered excessively demanding for a new director. Richard will thank Allan for his offer and explain why it has to be declined.

Up 'n' Under by John Godber directed by Chris Smith. This play will be read on 9th January 2026 and will be discussed at the committee meeting following it.

Any Others?

We have already read *Entertaining Angels* and *Second to Last in the Sack Race*. Both may be considered at the next meeting or the following one. Clare said that she would like to direct at some point in the future when work demands lessen. She would like to shadow a director too some time to get a clearer idea of what is involved.

AWD 7

Margaret reported that the management committee of AWD would like to have AWD 7 performances on 25th and 26th September 2026 with Technical and Dress Rehearsals during the day on Friday 25th as usual. Get In would be Thursday 24th in the evening and a run through would be on Wednesday 23rd evening. It was noted that the hall may be closed during part of the summer for renovations. The dates were agreed.

Margaret also asked for two evenings to be booked for rehearsals in the hall if possible and in Chidham Hall if not. Half the plays will be covered each evening. If necessary further rehearsals could be held in Chidham. The choice of Chidham was queried and St Nicolas church hall suggested instead – this will be followed up by the AWD team..

The committee members reminded themselves that AWD was a most enjoyable occasion and that we need to have more confidence in selling it to our friends. Tickets were not sold out so we made a loss but it was felt that we can sustain the loss as it is such a worthwhile activity for so many of our members.

Social Events

Sue has booked the celebratory meal at the College for 12th February 2026. She has passed the menu to Jan for the *Newsletter*. A few people have signed up and we need a lot more to do so. The deadline for booking is 26th January.

Newsletter Items

Playread as above plus 20th February playread TBA

AWD details

Cast and crew on *The Perfect Murder*

The 12th Night dinner on 12th February 2026

AOB

Sue asked about improvements to seating and if the chairs would be replaced or if cushions could be provided. This was thought to be unlikely. She also said that a number of requests were made for beer to be served in the bar. Scilla felt unable to manage this.

It was suggested that Rosey should be asked to take a photo of the whole company who are involved in a production, not just the cast. It could be used on the website perhaps.

Next Meeting Dates

19th January, 16th February and 23rd March 2026.