MINUTES OF SECOND SINODUN PLAYER AGM held 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

All reports for this meeting remain available to read on the Sinodun Players website in the 2026 AGM folder.

Will Lidbetter (Chair, Sinodun Players CIO) welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Confirmation that the meeting was quorate.

To be quorate, we required 10% of the membership or 10 full members (whichever is greater) to be present. Membership means the number of voting members.

We have 185 voting members.

There were 32 full members present. The meeting was therefore quorate.

2. Apologies for absence.

Ginny Avery, Mike Baker, Paul Cleverley, Rebecca Cleverley, Natalie Davies, Anna Garland, Kevin Harvey, Barbara Kershaw, Catherine Lidbetter, Avril Rangoni Machiavelli, Emma Parr, Ellen Phelips, Sam Rhodes, Mike Simmons, Chris Storey, Jennifer Thompson, John Warburton, Gloria Wright, John Wright.

DRAFT

3. Minutes of AGM for the Sinodun Players (SP) held on 1st October 2025

The draft minutes have been published on the SP website. No comments have been received. The minutes of the SP AGM held on 1st October 2025 were approved as a true record of the AGM. They were signed by Will Lidbetter.

4. Presentation and report from Encore.

Abbie and Joseph were welcomed to the stage.

They explained that the various Encore groups (Footlights, Spotlights and Twilights) have had the chance during the year to explore a wide range of performing arts topics, both on-stage performance and techniques and backstage roles.

In summer 2026, they had the biennial opportunity for an Encore production: *Around the Stage in Five Plays*. Abbie and Joseph explained how this had been rehearsed and staged during one of the hottest weeks of the very hot summer. This had put a lot of pressure on rehearsals, staging, wearing hot costumes, and generally performing in extreme heat. However, with a lot of goodwill, persistence, cooling fans, cold towels and all-round resilience, the show did go on! It was a triumphant occasion, much enjoyed by all.

Will Lidbetter thanked Abbie and Joseph for their presentation and commended all the Encore members who had participated in events and workshops this year. He thanked Diana for her hard work in making Encore an excellent and popular drama group.

5. Report from the Chair of SP Trustees for the year ending 31 May 2026.

The Chair of Trustees' report was not read out because a copy is available to read on the website.

Nick Morley had highlighted an amendment relating to the Little Theatre Guild (LTG). The event hosted by the Corn Exchange was an LTG National Committee Meeting, not a Regional Conference. The report will be amended to reflect this.

Proposed to be accepted: Abi Thornton

Seconded: Julie Grimshaw

Show of hands in favour: 32

Show of hands against: 0

Those abstaining: 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

DRAFT

6. Sinodun Players Trustees' Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ending 31st May 2026.

The SP Trustees' Report and Unaudited Financial Statements were not read out because a copy is available to read on the website. No questions were raised at the meeting.

Proposed to be accepted: Caroline Malnick

Seconded: Len Pannett

Show of hands in favour: 32

Show of hands against: 0

Those abstaining: 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

Will Lidbetter thanked Minaz Beddall, Finance Trustee, for her hard work managing the SP finances and for preparing the accounts. In particular, he singled out her leadership during the transition to a CIO, the improvements she has made in managing our investments, and the modernisation of our approach to keeping financial records.

As Minaz was stepping down as a trustee, Will presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the Sinodun Players as a thank you for all she has achieved for SP.

Will Lidbetter said SP will review who will provide our external accounting services going forward.

7. Corn Exchange Wallingford Ltd Annual Report for the year ending 31st May 2026.

The Corn Exchange Wallingford Ltd Annual Report was not read out because a copy is available to read on the website. No questions were raised at the meeting.

Nick Morley had highlighted that a similar amendment to the description of the LTG event was required in this report. The report will be amended to reflect this.

Proposed to accept the report and thank the Chair, all directors of the Corn Exchange Board and all the Corn Exchange volunteers for their tireless work: Martina Platts

Seconded: Minaz Beddall

DRAFT

Show of hands in favour: 32

Show of hands against: 0

Those abstaining: 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

Will Lidbetter thanked Gloria Wright, for her leadership of the Board. In particular, he thanked Stephen Williams as Finance Director and Tracy Noble as HR Director/Company Secretary, who have both stepped down recently. He noted all their diligent behind-the-scenes work, which is essential to keeping things running smoothly.

8. Note of Annual Meeting of shareholders

The note of the Annual Meeting of shareholders was not read out because a copy is available to read on the website. The Directors present at the meeting recommended the payment of £6,240 to the Sinodun Players in respect of the dividends payable on the preference shares for the 2025/26 financial year. The Trustees ratified this dividend.

9. Reports from Sinodun Players Committee.

Caroline Malnick was welcomed to the stage by Will Lidbetter.

a. Chair's Report, including artistic report of last year's productions.

This report was not read out because a copy is available to read on the website.

Julie Grimshaw mentioned that Edith Addis, who became Edith Payne, had also sadly passed away this year.

Caroline presented a number of ODN Awards and NODA District and Regional Awards. In particular, she highlighted Abi Thornton and Pete Smithson for an award for ODN Best Comedy Act (in *Hansel and Gretel*), the whole *Hansel and Gretel* cast, and the direction and production team for runner-up ODN Best Pantomime. She also highlighted Rebecca Cleverley and Chris Bertrand for roles in *The Father,* with Chris winning Best Male Character at the Regional NODA Awards for which he received a silver salver. Finally, she presented the NODA London Flame award for the 'brave and varied programming' of the 2025/26 SP Artistic Team, represented by Sarah Enticknap, Len Pannett and Sue Forward.

Will thanked Caroline for her report, the awards and her leadership of the SP Committee.

David Simmons highlighted that another silver salver was awarded to the Sinodun Players and the Corn Exchange in 2026. This was the Wallingford High Stewards Award for Contribution to the Town.

DRAFT

b. Treasurer's Report.

This report was not read out because a copy is available to read on the website. There were no questions raised at the meeting.

Will thanked Ann Stammers for her hard work over many years as SP Treasurer.

c. Artistic Team Report of 2026-2027 productions

   Sarah Enticknap presented the artistic programme for the coming year on behalf of the Artistic Programme Team (Sarah, Len Pannett and Poppy Jackson).

   The programme will be:

Pantomime (Jan 15-30) *The Snow Queen* by Alan Frayne; directed by Emma Trotman and Poppy Jackson

Early Spring (March 16-20) *Handbagged* by Moira Buffini; directed by Chris Harris

Late Spring (May 18-22) *Company* by Stephen Sondheim; directed by Ric Harley

Summer (July 13-17) *Death in High Heels* by Richard Harris; directed by Mark Wilkin

Autumn (September 28- October 2) *The Revlon Girl* by Neil Anthony Docking; directed by Charlotte Pearson

The artistic team thanked everyone who submitted for the 2027 season. Anyone who was disappointed this year, please do continue to submit a show in future years.

The directors of the 2027 productions introduced their shows to the members.

10. To conduct the annual elections for such posts as are vacant within Sinodun Players

Posts in the Charity for which holders remain in post for a further period:

President: John Warburton

Trustees: Mike Baker, Anna Garland, Will Lidbetter, Martin Parr, Martina Platts

Sinodun Players Committee (SPC): Dorothy Hirsch, Poppy Jackson, Val Kent, Caroline Malnick, Anne Stammers, Abi Thornton, Julie Utley (*Mike Baker attends SPC as the Trustee Rep; Sandy Milton attends as the Minutes Secretary but does not have voting rights*).

DRAFT

Posts in the Charity which are vacant:

Board of Trustees: There are 12 potential trustees and 6 vacancies.

Len Pannett is standing for election as a Trustee.

The SP Constitution requires one third of the Trustee Board to stand down each year on a rolling basis. Minaz Beddall, Nick Morley and Emma Trotman, as the longest-serving Trustees, are standing down. Minaz is NOT standing for re-election; Nick and Emma are standing for re-election.

Since fewer nominations were received than there are potential posts, all nominees were elected as Trustees unopposed

Nominee:	**Proposer:**	**Seconder:**
Len Pannett	Martin Parr	Minaz Beddall
Nick Morley	Julie Grimshaw	Mike Baker
Emma Trotman	Nick Morley	Gloria Wright

Sinodun Players Committee (SPC): There are 10 potential members and 3 vacancies. The SPC Rules require committee members to stand down every two years.

Sarah Enticknap and Sam Rhodes are standing down; both are standing for re-election.

Len Pannett is standing down and is not standing for re-election.

SPC Chair: Caroline Malnick will continue in post as SPC Chair, and attend the SPC in that capacity.

We have received three nominations, and so all nominees are elected unopposed.

Nominee:	**Proposer:**	**Seconder:**
Sarah Enticknap	Rebecca Cleverley	Gloria Wright
Sam Rhodes	Emma Trotman	Poppy Jackson
Natalie Davies	Dorothy Hirsch	Holly Gonzalez Smithson

11. Formal closure of AGM.

Will declared the formal part of the AGM closed.

12. Members' Open Forum

The Members' Forum is held after the formal reports have been received. Matters raised here are subsequently considered by the relevant committees. If a member wishes to raise a matter for discussion at the Open Forum, they should inform Caroline Malnick, Chair SPC, before the AGM

Caroline said that she had not received any specific matters for discussion in advance of the AGM.

Will commented on actions resulting from the discussion about the difference between volunteers and members, and the benefits of membership, which took place at last year's AGM. This work is still ongoing.

A number of other points were raised by members, including:

- Making sure that volunteers are correctly directed to the area that they are particularly interested in and have the skills to make a contribution
- It was important to identify real interests and skills
- Running a once-a-month Saturday half-hour session in the auditorium as a possible way of welcoming volunteers and understanding their interests and skills
- The next Open Day to encourage volunteer recruitment is on Saturday 3 October.

Caroline thanked all members and volunteers for the myriad of roles and contributions that they make. The Sinodun Players and the Corn Exchange could certainly not operate without them. Caroline closed the Members' Forum and encouraged members to join her in the Curtis Room for refreshments and the chance to chat informally.

Caroline thanked Julie Utley and her team for their hard work in preparing and providing the refreshments.

DRAFT