

**Proposal to expand the name and  
revise the constitution for the existing  
All Saints Pantomime Society  
to  
All Saints Pantomime and  
Entertainment Society**

**Steve Holt, February 2026**

# All Saints Pantomime Society to All Saints Pantomime and Entertainments Society

## Background

All Saints Pantomime Society has a significant history dating back over 70 years.

We have the first formally approved constitution for the society dated 1988, which received some minor modifications in 2017.

The fundamentals of the society have remained intact since its inception with its core objective being *'to promote entertainment in the community for all ages and to raise sufficient funds to support the objectives of the Society and enable donations to be given to local activities/charities.'*

Over recent times we have seen more entertainment activities within the parish of All Saints, from extravaganzas, to plays, galas and cabarets. It is interesting to note that the individuals involved in all these events are also, in the main, the people who create our renowned pantomime.

Whilst the Pantomime Society has a range of equipment to support its productions, it is limited regarding other styles and types of performance. It is this limitation that prompts the proposal to change the name.

## Rationale

The thoughts going forward are to consider all the above entertainment activities under one society. This would allow greater flexibility in utilising assets, which currently sit within the pantomime society. For example, as a group of like-minded people, we are currently reliant on the loan from individuals in the parish for equipment such as microphones and stands.

The restriction is that the monies raised from the pantomime performances are held within the Pantomime Society accounts and as such will be considered as restrictive funds, meaning that expenditure should be for the Pantomime Society.

Under the terms of the constitution, monies raised from pantomime performances have been donated to local organisations and charities. The society has kept reserves to ensure that it has funds to cover expenditure towards the next pantomime production. When there has been a need for a piece of equipment, it has been purchased, but it has always been pantomime-performance related.

When other events are held, the organisers rely on individuals to provide the necessary items required.

ASPS was fortunate to have been given some audio and visual equipment from Axminster Drama Club some 18 months ago and we have adapted this to enhance our productions. This is also available to other groups or individuals organising various events. The introduction of this has enabled us to show how we can enhance any performance within the Village Hall or any other venue. However, the extent of the equipment available is limited.

Another benefit is that an organisation with a broader remit enables it to look at grants for equipment whereas the word pantomime in the title is a little restrictive as it has quite a specific remit and timeframe.

## **Proposal**

To rename the organisation currently called All Saints Pantomime Society to the “All Saints Pantomime and Entertainments Society.” This would formalise an organisation that would envelop most productions and events and enable one set of accounts for all, thereby allowing funds raised by one to support the needs of another.

## **Other considerations**

The author understands that a counter argument could be that each event raises funds to purchase required/desired equipment. However, the converse argument to this is that the equipment would not have a parish-wide owner as each event would be considered bespoke.

The All Saints Pantomime Society members will need to approve the transfer and use of existing funds to the new Society.

The new Society will be required, under the new constitution, to hold sufficient reserves to ensure that the main event of the year, the pantomime, has sufficient funds to ensure it can be produced.

There will be no need to change the name of the bank account as it will in essence encompass the revised name of the society.

## **Constitution**

Appendix A is the proposed constitution for All Saints Pantomime and Entertainments Society.

Appendix B shows the only full constitution that could be found by the current members, for the existing All Saints Pantomime Society.

## **Conclusion**

The change of name from All Saints Pantomime Society to All Saints Pantomime and Entertainments Society offers greater flexibility to support both financially and technically, a range of events that may be carried out across the year.

## Appendix A

# Constitution for All Saints Pantomime and Entertainments Society

## 1. Name

The Name of the Society shall be All Saints Pantomime and Entertainments Society (formally All Saints Pantomime Society). (the Society)

## 2. Mission

To provide local, social events for all, including people who live alone, those with limited mobility and the elderly in care, to harness and develop the talents of the community and to promote health and well-being through the arts and entertainment.

## 3. Objects

The aims of the Society shall be:

- a) To promote entertainment in the community for all ages and to raise sufficient funds to support the objects. Funds raised in addition to those required to support the entertainments shall be donated to support local activities and/or charities of the Society's choice.
- b) To engage with its member to promote and perform across a wide range of entertainment genres from general concerts to charity galas, cabarets, plays and pantomimes.
- c) To work with and support all other All Saints Community organisations as necessary.

## 4. Organisation

### 4.1 Officers of the Society

The Officers of the Society shall be the Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and one Co-opted member from the Society's membership.

### 4.2 Production Organisation

Any individual production may have different organisers and officials. However, these officials will have responsibility for that particular event. Any actions involving the Society and its Objects must be referred to the Officers of the Society

## 5. Membership

5.1 General Membership is open to anyone who wishes to be part of the Society

5.2 A Membership Fee fee will be charged to all members. This will enable the Society to identify its full membership and declare it for insurance purposes and any other legal requirement. Only paid up members will be eligible to vote at the Society's AGM (see 6.2)

## **6. Meetings**

6.1 General meetings of the Officers will be held as often as necessary and at least three (3)

6.2 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society shall be held every year in the second quarter. All members shall be notified not less than fourteen days before the meeting. An agenda will be circulated. Business of the AGM will include electing the Officers; reporting on the activities during the year, amendments to the constitution and approval of the Society's accounts.

6.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be held at the chair's discretion or by a written request to the chair of not less than 5 members. The meeting shall be called within twenty-one days of such a request and appropriate measures taken to inform all members. An Extraordinary General Meeting should only consider the business specified in the request.

## **7. Finances**

- Any money raised shall be used to further the aims of the Society.
- The bank account will require two signatures on any cheque or other bank transaction. There will be three signatories available to the treasurer for banking purposes;
- A simple written note of the Society's financial position, will be produced and available at committee meetings;
- A statement of accounts verified by a competent person who is independent of the Society shall be tabled at the AGM;
- No member shall derive any financial benefit from the Society, except for payment of 'reasonable expenses';
- No money will be paid out in the name of the Society without a receipt being presented.

## **8. Special Financial considerations**

The Society shall hold sufficient funds at the calendar time of September of each year to cover the base costs for the production of the annual pantomime.

## **9. Amendments to the constitution**

If amendment(s) to the constitution are necessary, members will be informed in writing and given the opportunity to consider and vote on the amendments at either the AGM or and EGM. Any amendment(s) will be made if there is a two-thirds majority vote of members.

## **10. Dissolution**

If the committee, by a simple majority, deem it advisable to dissolve the Society, it shall call a meeting of all the members of the Society, giving not less than 14 days notice. If such a decision is confirmed by a majority of those present, then all the

assets of the Society shall be transferred to another local voluntary group, community group or society with similar aims or a charity of the member's choice.

**Adopted on the .....day of .....20.....**

Signed ..... (Chair)

Signed ..... (Treasurer)

Signed ..... (Secretary)

## Appendix B

# All Saints Pantomime Society

## CONSTITUTION

This constitution was drawn up in consultation with and complies with the guidelines of East Devon District Council's Village Community Enterprises and adopted in May 1998

### 11. Title

The title of the Society shall be All Saints Pantomime Society

### 12. Objects

The aims of the Society shall be to promote entertainment in the community for all ages and to raise sufficient funds to support the objectives of the Society and enable donations to be given to local activities/charities.

### 13. Organisation

#### 13.1 **Officers of the Society**

The Officers of the Society shall be the Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and other such officers as the Society may from time to time appoint.

#### 13.2 **Executive Committee**

The affairs of the Society shall be administered by an Executive Committee, which shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall have all Powers conducive or incidental to the attainment of the objects referred to and the management and control of the affairs of the Society.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Society and any other members that the Committee wish to co-opt from time to time.

#### 13.3 **Membership**

There will be one type of membership: individual. An annual subscription shall be charged at a level agreed at the preceding Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee shall have the power, without assigning any reason, to refuse membership to any applicant.

### 14. Voting

Each member shall have the right to exercise one vote

### 15. Meetings

The Executive Committee shall call an Annual General meeting in April each year and shall convene other General Meetings as and when necessary. Special General Meetings may also be convened on the written application by at least ten members of the Society to the Honorary Secretary.

Notices of motions for the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting shall be received by the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

A quorum of any General Meeting shall consist of six voting members. Decisions of a General Meeting shall be made by a majority of votes of those present at the meeting and entitled to vote. In the event of an equality of votes, The Chairperson (or other person presiding at the meeting) shall have the casting vote whether or not he or she has previously voted.

## **16. Finance**

The Society's financial year shall run from 1 April to 31<sup>st</sup> March the following year. The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the carrying out of the objectives of the Society as set forth in this Constitution.

At each Annual General Meeting a statement of accounts and balance sheet for the previous year will be presented. The Society's bank account shall be at a appointed bank. All cheques shall be signed by not less than two officers of the Society.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to invest any of the funds of the Society in such security or securities the Committee may decide.

## **17. Amendments to the constitution**

Amendments of the Constitution only at a General meeting of the Society by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of those present and entitled to vote. Notice of the proposed amendments shall be circulated to all officers and members not less than seven days before the said General Meeting.

## **18. Dissolution of the Society**

In the event of the Society being dissolved, any property or monies remaining after its debts and liabilities have been settled shall be applied to some purpose or organisation within the community whose objects correspond with those of the Society.

## **19. Interpretation**

The Committee shall be the final arbiter on all matters relating to the interpretation of the Constitution.