



Minutes of the Committee meeting held at 44 Beverley Crescent on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 7.45pm.

Present: Tessa Cox (in the Chair); Peter Snelling; David Roberts; Siân Rees; Ian Smith; Susanne Minocha; Vanessa Skelton.

Action

1 Apologies and welcome

The Chair welcomed those attending. Apologies had been received from Jeremy Hopkinson.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (3 September 2019) and matters arising

- The minutes were approved.
- Matters arising:

(a) replacement for Kate as Occasions Secretary

Michael Palmer had agreed to take this office on, though he would like the music to be kept in the store. It was agreed that there was room in the store (although a sort out was needed there) – so Kate and Michael should be asked to get together for a handover.

Tessa

(b) buddy for Ellie in the Box Office

Tessa would ask for a volunteer. Gerrylyn had agreed for her telephone number to appear on publicity as contact for tickets for the March concert after 1 March, as Ellie will be away.

Tessa

(c) replacements for Jenny and Michael

several suggestions were put forward – Tessa would approach these members, and if no-one took up the opportunity, would appeal to the choir as a whole.

Tessa

(d) complimentary tickets

Jenny had not yet managed to visit the advertisers in Leighton Buzzard, but hoped to be in a position to do this before the March concert.

Jenny

3. Matters arising from the AGM

(a) process to complete change to CIO

Siân had written to the Charity Commission, asking for their comments on the new constitution, prior to the formal application for the new status being made.

It was noted that once approved a new Charity number would be issued, a new bank account would have to be set up, Friends would have to alter their standing orders, all gift aid requests would need changing, etc. This would entail a lot of work, but once the steps

were taken, the matter could be put to rest.

(b) men's concert dress

It was felt that the objections to the changes raised at the AGM were based largely on the process adopted. It was agreed that the matter should be put to the men (including lady tenors), and Survey Monkey would be an appropriate tool for this. Siân kindly agreed to investigate this. Once she had done so, the questions to be asked should be agreed by the committee – possibly at the January committee meeting.

Siân

Uniform for the Beds Fire and Rescue Service should be normal wedding uniform with a 'touch of red' for the women.

4 Review of Saturday's concert

Ian had been very pleased with the performance – quality of singing, pitch and balance had all been extremely good. The feedback from the audience had been very good, with enthusiastic applause. The soloists had been excellent and had blended extremely well. Peter said that, despite contrary indications right up to the last minute, the ticket sales had been good. Overall it had been one of our best concerts.

Ian suggested that the same four soloists should be asked to sing for the summer 2021 concert – this was whole heartedly concurred with.

Ian

5 Future scheduled events

6th December 2019 Woburn Christmas lights switch on

The format would be standard carols, and the event should last about 45 minutes. Carol singing round Woburn would follow for those who wished to participate. Not many men had put themselves forward – Tessa would ask for more men volunteers.

Tessa

18th December 2019 Beds Fire and Rescue Carol Service (Woburn)

Thomas Warner, the organiser, had provided a list of carols. The Salvation Army band would be accompanying – as their harmonies can differ from those in *Carols for Choirs*, Ian would check and make such adjustments as were necessary. There would be two carols for the choir to sing on their own - these would be unaccompanied. Ian would decide on these over the next week or two.

Ian

3 28 March 2020 (Vivaldi Gloria & Magnificat, McDowall Ave Maris Stella)

Ian had booked the soloists, Susan Gilmore Bailey and Anna Huntley. Ian and David would contact Nick Cutts, manager of The Alina Orchestra which had been booked for the concert, about the orchestral parts for the McDowall – David had already obtained the orchestral parts for the Vivaldi pieces.

Ian & David

The choral scores had also been obtained and would be handed out at the next rehearsal.

Ideally both an organ and a harpsichord should be hired, but if cost precluded this, an organ would work for both pieces. David would look at what was available – Peter had budgeted £1000 for the instruments.

David

Ian had asked John Witchell to play a solo piece.

28th June 2020 (Elgar *Dream of Gerontius*) – Joint concert with MK Chorale

Scores would need hiring

David reported that he had been unable to book The Venue as sadly it was unavailable. He suggested using The Grove Theatre in Dunstable again. Whilst some members of the choir did not wish to travel there, and others found it difficult to sell tickets so far away, it was a good venue for the work. There were no other reasonable local venues. David was asked to book The Grove – he believed it was available for the 7 November. The Grove had other advantages – they would help with publicity and Central Beds should help with costs of a performance there.

David

Ian was planning to ask Milton Keynes Youth Choir to provide the children's voices needed.

Ian

6 Treasurer's report

Peter had circulated the Management Accounts. The recent concert had done well financially, and the deficit would be much as had been budgeted. Overall the year still looked on target to end with a small surplus, again as budgeted. Subs were slightly lower than predicted, and Peter had asked Sheila to concentrate publicity over the next few weeks on recruitment. Basses were needed most.

Peter had allowed for £300 for a training event. Ian proposed a training evening in the New Year, and suggested asking Simon Berridge – this was approved.

Ian

7 Danesborough Handbook updates (requested by Jenny)

- Sian now dealt with Performing Rights Society returns.
- David should inform the Hiring Librarian of the works scheduled for performance.
- Ian should inform the website administrator of the soloists booked.
- Peter books rehearsal and concert venues at Woburn.
- Peter arranges access to Woburn Church. He will give Jenny the contact details there (there are three people involved).

Peter

8 Future meeting dates (2020)

11 February – provisionally at Ian's

28 April

8 September

AGM – 7 October

9 AOB

Ian had received an invitation on behalf of the choir for it to make an entry in the World Encyclopaedia of Choirs. Entry was free, but content of 1 – 5 pages was needed. He would investigate further.

Ian

He had also received an invitation for us to enter the Eisteddfod at Llangollen in July 2020. It was decided that this was not practicable.

Carol Yirrell had suggested another social. Various ideas were put forward – a BBQ, a wine-tasting, a chocolate tasting. These would be looked at further – in particular, Carol would be asked to contact Robin Dawson to see if he might kindly agree to allow us to have a summer BBQ in his grounds.

Tessa