



- 1.0 **Apologies for Absence:** David Peck, recent operation has left him poorly the committee wish him a full recovery.
- 1.1 **Present:** Rob Bream (Chair), Ross Van de Zande, Ian Robertson, Andrew Conquest, Mark Jefferson, Nick Gane, Ivor Thulborn, Kevin Farrell, Calvin Goymer, Ashley Seaborne (invited) & Malcolm Lodge (Sec).
- 2.0 **Acceptance of Minutes of Last Meeting:** Minutes of the meeting held on 10/02/20 were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 **Matters Arising:** None
- 4.0 **Treasurer's Report: AC**
- 4.1 The accounts have been audited for the year ending 31st March 2020 and are correct. **AC** explained that the legal costs in relation to setting up the Code of Conduct following the incident in June 2019 came to just over £1200. **RB** commented that this had to be done as the Charity Commission needed to be aware of the incident and he had received a letter to say they were satisfied with the way the choir had handled everything.
- 4.2 All outstanding recording costs have been paid although there will be more to pay once the recording can be completed.
- 4.2 Next year's revenue will be down as the donations will be much lower because of the impact of the Covid situation on the choirs ability to perform.
- 4.3 **IR** raised the question of freezing the subscriptions as he had been approached by a member to raise this point. After a lot of discussion, it was decided not to volunteer this but if individuals requested their subscription to be frozen until rehearsals restart then their request will be granted.
- 5.0 **Music Team Report: MJ**
- 5.1 **MJ** said he was disappointed with the poor response for the virtual choir that he set up. Despite that he said he would like to do another one but felt the impetus should come from the committee. He had been in contact with the APEX regarding the possibility of the choir rehearsing in there as it is currently closed. The suggestion would be for the choir to be split in two and sing separately so as to be able to keep the social distancing. Currently waiting for a response. Concerned about the Austria trip if the Covid situation continues into the New Year. Would like other activities to be introduced but believes it should be led by the committee.
- 5.2 A lot of discussion followed with ideas including the possibility of singing outside and virtual music tuition. **MJ** asked **RB** to do a Newsletter to update the members on what was happening. **RB** said he would do this asap.
- 5.3 **KF** circulated an email that invited the choir to join the Bury St Edmunds Friendly Orchestra for a virtual recording project. This would be a recording of Jerusalem for orchestra and singers and will involve the Bury Friendly Orchestra, the Newmarket Chamber Orchestra members of the Thetford Singers. Everyone will record their own

parts and film a video. This will then be multi tracked together for a recording to be released on social media at the beginning of September. After discussion everyone agreed the choir should join in the recording.

6.0 **Concert Secretary's Report: IT**

6.1 All arranged concerts have been cancelled including the joint concert at the APEX arranged for November 2020. **AC** said he was currently trying to get the £500 deposit returned. **IT** suggested that perhaps it could be left as a deposit for next year as he would still like to put the concert on when the situation allows. The committee agreed to this and **AC** said he would speak to his contact at the APEX and explain that the choir wished to rebook for November 2021.

6.2 **IT** said he would still like the Norfolk Walk to go ahead but his idea is to have it around Brancaster beach and people to bring a picnic. **IT**

7.0 **Concert Manager's Report: IR**

7.1 Culford School cancelled the hiring of the staging.

8.0 **Chairman's Report: RB**

8.1 The Austria Tour is likely to be extended by 2 days as a stop-over is to be included going out and coming back to help spread the travelling as it will be by coach and train. The dates proposed are Sunday 30 May returning on Monday 7 June. **MJ** said that the 7 was his first day back at school after half term so could the date be moved to 29 May and 6 June. **RB** said he would speak to his contact asap. **RB**

9.0 **Vice Chairman's Report: RVdZ**

9.1 Comments from a few members regarding meeting somehow, possibly a barbecue. The committee agreed that a barbecue was a possibility if Tim Freathy could provide the venue and the meat. **RB** said he would talk to Tim. **RB**

10.0 **Secretary's Report: ML**

10.1 The AGM will be live on Zoom on Thursday 20th August at 7:30 pm James Black is organising this. Protocol needs to be circulated to the members **RB** said he would liaise with James **MJ** said he would forward the protocol that he uses for teachers' meetings on Zoom. **MJ/RB**

11.0 **Membership Secretary: NG**

11.1 **NG** circulated a comprehensive spreadsheet showing where the music folders are within the choir. Unfortunately, Jim Beardsmore and Doug Wayman have both passed away since the last committee meeting and he added that John Meers might not return when rehearsals restart.

11.2 **AC** said that Mark Whitehead would like to return to the Choir and start paying his subscriptions once choir returns. After a short discussion **IT** proposed that he should be allowed to return, and this was seconded by **KF**. The vote was unanimous to allow his return.

12.0 **Librarian's Report: DP** not present.

13.0 **Web Site: KF**

13.1 The only activity on the website has been the virtual choir that **MJ** organised, and this has had nearly 2000 viewings. **RVdZ** said increased security had been added to the website to help protect members data.

14.0 **Any Other Business:**

KF suggested that the next committee meeting should be in two weeks with the only items on the agenda should be the ideas put forward earlier to involve the members. This was agreed by all at the meeting.

15.0 **Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 12 August 7:00pm 30d St Andrews Street Bury St Edmunds