



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 2 March 2021 7:30pm
Meeting via ZOOM

1.0 **Apologies for Absence:** Andrew Conquest

1.1 **Present:** Rob Bream (Chair), Ross Van de Zande, Ivor Thulborn, Ashley Seaborne, Nick Gane, Kevin Farrell, Mark Jefferson, Calvin Goymer, Malcolm Lodge (Sec).

2.0 **Acceptance of Minutes of the last meeting:** Minutes of the meeting held on 01/02/21 were accepted by the committee and signed by the secretary as a true and correct record.

3.0 **Matters Arising:** From 01/02/21

(8.2) IT said that both Paul Davis and Tony Farr had been able to attend David Pecks funeral and that David's wife who was unable to be at the funeral because of illness is slowly improving.

4.0 **Music Team: MJ**

4.1 Been in contact with 2 companies, Dawson and Gak regarding improving the sound system. Both companies unwilling to loan out any equipment at the moment and also the Choir is not in a position to trial it until rehearsals restart. A question was asked if the Choir would be subject to VAT on any purchase of equipment. **RB** said he would check with the treasurer **AC**.

RB

4.2 **IT** said that he still hadn't heard from Gareth regarding the recording. **MJ** offered to try again to contact him. **MJ** added that he had had his first vaccine.

MJ

5.0 **Concert Secretary: IT**

5.1 Michelle McCoy from the APEX had been in contact regarding the concert booked for Sunday 24 October. She asked for a deposit, and **IT** explained that she had it as the deposit wasn't returned from last year's booking. This was satisfactory resolved.

5.2 Quizzes still going well, and **IT** intends to hold one on Maundy Thursday when he is proposing Easter eggs as prizes instead of wine.

6.0 **Concert Manager: AS**

6.1 Have looked at trailers on-line and found a well-priced one in Sicklesmere. This will hold as much as the large horsebox but would be a lot easier to manoeuvre. The cost would be £3,260 including will check with treasurer to see if we get the VAT back. Unfortunately, haven't been able to view because of the restrictions but as soon as allowed will view with anyone from the committee who wishes to. Also think asking the company for sponsorship by having their name on the trailer and therefore getting it at a lower cost. **RvdZ** said that was a very good price as the cheapest he could find one was £5,100. On the hiring front it would be hoped that the hirers would have the right transport to take it otherwise we would be charging 45 pence per mile to deliver and pick up on top of the hire rate.

7.0 **Chairman's Report: RB**

- 7.1 **RB** said he would send a letter to Paul Deane's family to acknowledge the generous amount of £2,000 that Paul left to the Choir in his will. **RB**
- 7.2 **MJ** asked the committee to consider in the future the possibility of sponsoring a young musician through college. The committee agreed this was a good idea. **ALL**
- 7.3 Received a document to fill in from the Charity Commission asking what the Choir has been doing in the lockdown with the treasurer's help has managed to answer the questions.
- 7.4 **RB** said he would like to invite Ian Cooper onto the committee as an ex officio member due to his knowledge of health and safety. He added that Ian has supplied a lot of good advice and could be a good source of information for safe handling and setting up staging. The committee agreed to this. **ALL**
- 7.5 **IT** felt that once rehearsals started the committee should encourage a safe environment by insisting that everyone must be vaccinated. **MJ** added that he wasn't sure if this was legal. The committee said they would wait for clearer direction from the government.
- 7.6 **RB** said because of the long process of getting refunds from the cancelled Vienna tour and as he was a signatory on all the payments, he would stay on for another year the committee thought this was a good idea. As three years is the maximum term for a chairman the membership would have to be asked if they agreed to it by having a vote.
- 7.7 Possible restart at Howard end of June if the government roadmap unfolds as it should. Possibility of rehearsing in village halls before that date but would have to wait for more clarity. **RB** asked **MJ** if he would be able to lead rehearsals through the school summer holidays **MJ** said he would need 2 weeks out of the holidays but should be able to do the others.

8.0 **Vice Chaiman's report: RVdZ**

- 8.1 The cost of repainting the staging frames would be about £40 per unit with 20 units costing around £1,400. Initially the frames all need to be stripped of paint before plating. **RVdZ** said he would strip back a frame and get one plated as a sample. Also going to try and get some costs for stripping **ML** suggested an acid dip as he believes that companies who anodise use that process for stripping. **RVdZ**

9.0 **Treasurer's Report: AC not present.**

- 9.1 **ML** said that **AC** had circulated his report to the committee before the meeting and has added it to the minutes.
- As ever the Choir is in a healthy financial position. Financially we have benefited from nearly all members continuing to pay their subscriptions, receipt of a donation of £2,000 in the memory of our President Paul Deane (£1,000 to be allocated to the restricted President's fund) and not having to pay for the use of our rehearsal venue.

Our receipts and payments for the year to date (26 February) are as follows:

Internal Receipts

Subscriptions	7296.00
Tax recovered	2167.25
Donations including friends	1000.00
Bank interest	24.31
Total internal receipts	10487.56

Internal payments

Rehearsal expenses	0.00
Music team	4400.00
Music purchased	0.00
Insurance & subscriptions	279.43
Website costs	1231.18
Uniform – net costs	0.00
Training – net costs	0.00
Other costs - quiz prizes	288.03
	6198.64

Net "Internal" surplus(costs)costs **4288.92**

Other Receipts and payments

Concerts – net receipts(see attached)

Social Events -

Net payments re Austria -3371.94

Apex recording 0.00

CD Sales 5.00

Stage hire 0.00

President's Fund 1220.00

-2146.94

Net surplus/(deficit) for the year from all activities 2141.98

Add opening balance 13540.22

Closing bank balance 15682.20

Deposit account 29458.00

Cash 106.00

Euro account sterling equivalent 153.00

Total balances at 26 Feb **45399.20**

Of which relates to restricted President's fund 2332.00

Of note is that as a consequence of the donation received (which is gift aided) then the tax refund for our general fund next year is now likely to be around £2200 compared with £2167 this year and £2379 last year.

The net payment in respect of Austria was provided for and represents the refund of air fares and the contribution in relation to a final night dinner. Rob will report on the situation of final refunds which are being negotiated with the travel agent Melody Music. Those refunds will not impact choir funds.

We have to budget for the completion of our recording. Our designated CD fund available is £6579 having paid £4433 last year.

The Choir's general funds are more than sufficient to fund the purchase of a new trailer for storing and transporting the stage, stage improvements and the sound system. I would recommend that once a decision is made in relation to those improvements that Alex Deane (Paul's son) is made aware of how the choir has therefore benefited from the donation of £1000.

I will prepare a budget for 2021 for our next meeting so as to provide a background for the decision on the level of subscriptions for next year.

10.0 **Secretary: ML** Nothing to report.

11.0 **Membership Secretary: NG**

11.1 **NG** supplied a report for the last 12 months consisting of new members and others who are no longer in the choir. **IT** said that Jim Murray who is listed as a new member has actually decided not to join.

12.0 **Web Site: KF**

12.1 **KF** thanked **NG** for supplying him with an updated list of members. Following this he said there were 18 changes that needed to be made in the members area and he would contact Viv to get the changes made.

KF

13.0 **Date of Next Meeting: 7:30pm Monday 29 March 2021 via ZOOM**

ALL