



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 26 April 2021 7:30pm
Meeting via ZOOM

1.0 **Apologies for Absence:** None

1.1 **Present:** Rob Bream (Chair), Ivor Thulborn, Andrew Conquest, Nick Gane, Ian Cooper, Ross Van de Zande, Ashley Seaborne, Mark Jefferson, Malcolm Lodge (Sec).

2.0 **Acceptance of Minutes of the meeting on Monday 29 March:**
IT asked for the spelling of Susanne to be corrected to **Suzanne**.
ML corrected the error immediately.

Minutes of the meetings held on 29/03/21 were accepted by the committee and signed by the secretary as a true and correct record.

3.0 **Matters Arising:**

(5.2) **IT** reported that along with **NG** they were going to pick up all of the Choir music from Suzanne Peck on Thursday 29 April as she has now sold her house.

(8.1) Both Suzanne Peck and Sylvia Wilson were pleased to leave the profiles of David Peck and Ed Wilson on the Choir website for 3 months. **RB** added that he hadn't spoken to Jackie Deane (Paul's widow) regarding Paul's profile being left on the Choir website but would do asap.

RB

4.0 **Music Team: MJ** Nothing to report

5.0 **Concert Secretary: IT**

5.1 John Porter had asked **IT** if the Choir would be singing at Ickworth Church this year and he said he told him that this couldn't be confirmed and it may have to be postponed until 2022.

6.0 **Concert Manager: AS**

6.1 New trailer has been picked up and **AS** intends to decide the best way to store the staging barriers inside the trailer before he moves it for storage. He added that he had contacted Coachline Graphics regarding banners for putting on the trailer and at the back of the stage during concerts and had circulated pictures of what he proposed to the committee. **RVdZ** pointed out that the graphics were not the latest version. He added that Viv has the latest artwork so if **AS** contacted her for what was required it can then be forwarded to the company for the graphics. **NG** suggested the signs proposed to go on the back of the trailer and also at concerts should be SEMVC.com rather than just SEMVC. The committee agreed this was a good idea.

AC said the Choir insurance only covered the trailer and its contents when it was stationary and not attached to a vehicle. **AC** added that it would need to go on the insurance of whoever was towing the trailer. **AS** said that he would speak to Ian Robertson about this and ask him if he knew what was previously done as he had towed the old horsebox that the Choir had used for a number of years. He added he would talk about security of the trailer to James Black who will be storing the trailer.

7.0 **Chairman: RB**

7.1 **RB** opened by explaining that a return to rehearsals on Thursday May 20 is now a possibility with the venue being outside in the grounds of Pakenham Church with a maximum of 30 people. This can only happen though if the next lifting of government restrictions happens on 17 May. **RB** asked **MJ** if he could start the rehearsal at 7:00pm and he said that would be ok. Rehearsal would run from 7.00–8.30pm with no break and it would also be subject to the weather. Members would have to bring their own chairs and not share music or car share. **NG** to send an email out to all members inviting them to put their names forward for rehearsals. As its only 30 it may well be that the Choir will have to be split into 2 groups and rehearse alternate weeks. **RB** added it's not ideal, but it is a start to getting back to singing. He will contact Calvin the Choir's accompanist to find out if he can do the proposed rehearsals. **MJ** said he wouldn't be able to take the Thursday of half term (3 June).

7.2 The AGM is due shortly and **RB** asked for comments regarding either having a virtual meeting or waiting until a normal meeting can be held. As there is nothing in the constitution to prevent it being put back it was decided that if all restrictions are lifted as planned by 21 June a normal AGM could be held soon after.

7.3 Melody Music are continuing to pursue refunds due from the cancelled Austrian Tour. **RB** said he had been assured that the refunds would be forthcoming.

RB

8.0 **Vice Chairman: RVdZ** Nothing to report

9.0 **Treasurer: AC**

9.1 The treasurer reported that as at 31 March we held funds of C £45,300, having spent £444 coating the safety barriers for the Stage.

We generated a surplus of c.£4250 in general funds during the year compared with a loss of £250 the previous year. Of course, the main reason for this was that our subscriptions continued but we did not have any rehearsal expenses.

So far as income was concerned our subscriptions, tax refund and donations totalled £10,964 compared with £10,977 last year. Whilst our subscriptions were down by £432. We received a donation of £1000 from Paul Deane's estate.

It is worth noting that next year therefore whilst our subscription income may well be less next year (due to leavers and members passing) our tax refund will be slightly more based as it is on this year's income. I will provide full accounts for the next committee meeting and arrange for them to be examined by Richard Chaplin.

10.0 **Secretary: ML**

10.1 **ML** said he had contacted Howard Primary regarding clarity on returning to the school for rehearsals. The Choir can start rehearsing there as soon as all restrictions are lifted. If the government adheres to their road map this would be **after the 21 June at the earliest.**

10.2 No Friends donations this year as **ML** didn't think it was appropriate to request payments. He apologised for not giving out this information earlier.

11.0 **Membership Secretary: NG** Nothing to report

12.0 **Any Other Business:**

12.1 **AS** asked the chairman what was going to happen regarding the two vacancies on the committee (Librarian and Website coordinator) **RB** said that they would be hopefully filled at the AGM. It was agreed that the membership should be asked well before the AGM so that candidates could put their names forward at the AGM.

12.2 There are vacancies for Section Leaders in both top and second tenors. It was agreed to fill these once rehearsals restart.

ALL

12.3 **RB** said the Choir needs a new President and had anyone got any views on this. **RVdZ** suggested asking Ernie Broom but **NG** said he spoke to Ernie recently outside his home and he is having difficulty walking. **ML** said perhaps someone who can promote the Choir in various ways would be a good choice. **RB** asked the committee to try and think of someone suitable to ask.

ALL

13.0 **Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17 May 7:30pm via ZOOM**