



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 9 August 2021 7:30pm
Meeting via ZOOM

- 1.0 **Apologies for Absence:** None
- 1.1 **Present:** Rob Bream (Chair), Ross Van de Zande, Ivor Thulborn, Nick Gane, Ashley Seaborne, Andrew Conquest, Ian Cooper, Glenn Warriner & Malcolm Lodge (Sec).
- 2.0 **Acceptance of minutes of the meeting on Monday 12th July:** Minutes of the meeting held on 12/07/21 were accepted by the committee and signed by the secretary as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 **Matters Arising:**
- 3.1 (From previous Matters Arising)The committee agreed to a top price of £250 for the horse box . **AS** asked the committee to allow him the discretion to reduce the price as necessary to ensure it is removed. The committee agreed to this. **AS** added he would be away between the 14th and 21st September.
- 3.2 (From previous Matters Arising) **RB** said he had sent a card to Ian Morgan welcoming him as the new Choir's President. He added that he had sent a best wishes card to Chris Boothby who has left the choir.
- 3.3 **(6.1) RB** confirmed that the proposed date of 30th October for Sing For Your Supper at Horringer Village Hall has been confirmed. **AS** said he would produce entry forms. **AS**
- 4.0 **Music Team: MJ** absent nothing to report.
- 5.0 **Concert Secretary: IT**
- 5.1 Update on the APEX Concert:
Phillippa who runs LIFT the hospital choir told **IT** that they are not allowed to rehearse at the hospital and have had no rehearsals for nearly 18 months. **IT** suggested that they could appear as special guests and perhaps sing a couple of songs they are familiar with. It was agreed this decision will be taken nearer the time. It's possible that Gemma Alexander could add more songs. **IT** said he was meeting **MJ** this week to discuss the music for the concert and also the progress of editing the APEX recording . **IT/MJ**
- 5.2 **IT** and **AS** went to Hartest Church as the choir have been asked to sing there. **IT** explained that the church is far too small for a choir the size of SEMVC so he has had to decline the invitation.
- 6.0 **Concert Manager: AS**
- 6.1 The trailer insurance is proving to be very troublesome it appears that if it is not in the name of the person pulling the trailer then it can't be insured. **RB, AC & IC** said they would investigate further through different insurance companies **RB/AC/IC**
- 7.0 **Chairman: RB**
- 7.1 AGM on the 16th September it was agreed that notification of the meeting to the members would be done the week beginning 23rd August. Minutes of the last AGM would be circulated at the same time. **ML**
- 7.2 Ian Morgan our new President is planning to come to one of our early rehearsals.

8.0 **Vice Chairman: RVdZ**

8.1 Ian Morgan and John Balaam have been added to the website page.

8.2 It was pointed out that the return to rehearsals on Thursday 2nd September also stated it would be at Howard Community School. As the school has not confirmed this to the choir **RVdZ** was asked if he would get Viv to remove the venue for the time being until this is confirmed.

RVdZ

9.0 **Treasurer: AC**

9.1 **Austria Refunds**

AC said he had spoken to Ian Waine of Pretty's Solicitors of Ipswich. Ian is a commercial lawyer well known to **AC** from when he used to instruct him on commercial insolvency matters. Ian had told **AC** that the choir had a solid case for claiming the hotel money back from Melody Music. If the choir decided to follow this route and Melody Music became insolvent because of these actions the choir could then claim on their ATOL insurance. **AC** continued by saying Melody Music had contacted him via email to inform him that the tour for the Welsh Choirs going to Austria in 2022(**Minutes 12th July 9.1**)was being planned and once he had some payment from them Melody Music would be able to start returning the choirs money. This could take a while so the options are to wait and hope that the money would be returned, probably not before next year, or formally instruct a lawyer to put the claim on Melody Music. After much discussion it was decided to instruct a lawyer and **AC** was asked to write a formal letter to Prettys (Lawyers). **RB** added that once the wheels are in motion the members will be notified.

AC/RB

10.0 **Secretary: ML**

10.1 Howard Community School have not accepted the booking of the hall for SEMVC rehearsals on Thursday nights. After a lot of emails, not always replied to **ML** said he finally got to talk to the office manager(Kelly Hamlin)and was told although the choir could be accommodated it was not likely to be in the main hall as they had taken a booking for Monday to Thursday from another group. **ML** said how disappointed the choir was as they had been using these premises for over 30 years and also choir members in recent times had come into the school during lunchtimes to mix with the children musically. There had also been fund raising for the school over the years. Kelly said she would go back to the Head Teacher as she is the one who made the decision and put forward the choirs views. She promised to get back to **ML** but as at this time there had been no communication. The committee were surprised and disappointed by this. After discussion it was agreed to ask the Head Teacher for a face to face meeting. **RB** said he would write a letter requesting this.

RB

10.2 It was agreed to accept the latest suggestions from **AS** as a description for the role of Section Leaders. **ML** said he would draft the suggestions into a formal document. It was agreed after discussion that the document would be given to each Section Leader when they attended their first committee meeting, probably in October.

ML

11.0 **Membership Secretary: NG**

11.1 2 new members 1 top tenor and 1 baritone should be joining the choir when rehearsals start in September.

11.2 **NG** asked the question of whether we should do concerts if we feel we haven't enough top tenors. **IT** said that was for **MJ** to decide and also the choir might have to think about singing in 3 parts not 4. It was agreed to put this on the AGM as an item as the choir needs the help of all it's members to try and attract more top tenors. Social media was mentioned as another way to attract new members and this drew a lot of support.

ALL

- 12.0 **Librarian: GW**
- 12.1 **GW** asked the committee the following questions.
Does anyone have the SEMVC stamp that is used on the music copies? **IT** said he would ask David Pecks widow if she had it otherwise the choir will need to purchase a new one.
- 12.2 Where do I purchase new music when required?
AC said Banks of York was who David had used and said he would send Glenn an invoice with address and contact details. **RB** wondered if Ian Morgan although not employed by Music sales any more would be able to get a deal on sheet music. He offered to ask him in the near future. **RB**
- 12.3 Where do I get music printed?
Andrew Akhurst at The Community Workshop, **AC** said he would again send an invoice with address and contact details.
- 12.4 **GW** asked **NG** if he could have an up to date list of choir members and their music numbers. **NG** said he was working on this and would send out as soon as he has finished updating. **NG**
- 12.5 What do I do with old music that is no longer in the repertoire?
RB said he was holding the majority of old music and asked **GW** to let him have it. **AC** added he would like a list and quantities of music not being used as he needs to reflect it in the accounts as it carries a cost. **RB** said he would do that. **RB**
- 13.0 **Health & Safety: IC**
- 13.1 **IC** said there was no guidance from the Government concerning singing indoors. There is a requirement on the people who run the venues to ensure they are clean and up to Covid19 guidance. There is no requirement for double jabs or Passport Vaccines either.
- 14.0 **Any Other Business:**
- 14.1 **AS** asked if there was a procedure when a member died to make contact with the widow /partner. He explained that the reason he asked was that he was speaking to Sylvia Wilson and she didn't know that there was going to be a Sing For Your Supper until he mentioned it. **ML** responded by apologising for this as he should have contacted Sylvia by now and automatically put her on the Friends list and therefore keeping her in touch with what is happening with choir related activities. He said he would contact Sylvia. **ML**
- 15.0 **Date of Next Meeting: Monday 23rd August 2021** **ALL**

