



St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir

Minutes Of Committee Meeting

Monday 20th September 7:30 pm
Meeting Via ZOOM

- 1.0 **Apologies for Absence:** M Jefferson
- 1.1 **Present:** Ross Van de Zande (Chair) Ian Cooper, Ivor Thulborn, Andrew Conquest, Nick Gane, Ashley Seaborne, Glenn Warriner, Jules Mills & Malcolm Lodge (Sec.)
- 2.0 **Acceptance of minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd August:** Minutes of the meeting held on 23/08/21 were accepted by the committee and signed by the secretary as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 **Matters Arising:** None
- 4.0 **Appointments of Librarian & Website Co-ordinator:** Glenn Warriner & Jules Mills
- 4.1 **GW & JM** were formally invited by the chairman to join the committee and both accepted. **RvdZ** to organise job descriptions. **RvdZ** added that anything that was to be added to the website in the future would be seen by all of the committee. **RVdZ**
- 5.0 **Music Team Appointment:**
- 5.1 Calvin Goymer, Roz Pitcher & Paul Davis were appointed to be on the Music Team. It was agreed that deputy accompanist, **Roz** should play more regularly so when required to cover for **CG** it would be easier for her to play for a rehearsal or concert .
- 5.2 **Resignation of Mark Jefferson (MD).**
- RvdZ** said that the choir had received **MJ's** resignation with immediate effect. **MJ** will continue conducting the choir until the end of term (Thursday 16th December). He is also committed to the concert on October 24th at the APEX. **AC** asked if he had given a reason and **RvdZ** said he hadn't. **RvdZ** said he hoped **MJ** can leave on a good note and everyone should respect his decision and it is up to the committee and the choir to get behind **MJ** at rehearsals and especially the concert so that he can have the send off he deserves for his long and successful association as Musical Director with the choir. **IC** said the choir needed to be formally told at the next rehearsal of **MJ's** resignation as there are rumours going around. It was suggested that a joint statement should be agreed between the choir and **MJ**. **RvdZ** said he would organise this and make a statement to the members at Notices at Thursday's rehearsal. **RVdZ**
- 6.0 **Concert Secretary: IT**
- 6.1 **IT & AS** met Michelle at the APEX in regard to the concert. There will be a promotion code for the choir members and partners to buy tickets at a reduced rate **IT** will tell everyone when this will be available should only be a few days. **LIFT** are hopeful of taking part in the concert. **IT** to speak to Mark about having a drummer for the concert. Posters are ready and could go on local Facebook pages. **JM** to send notice to all members via **NG**. The choir staging will be required at the APEX. Nigel Farthing wants to carry on singing as long as he can and a plan to get him off stage in case of any emergency needs to be in place.

- 6.2 Mansfield MVC coming to Bury on 18th June 2022 to do a joint concert with he choir. Venue unknown at this time but **IT** suggested that St John's Church would be a good choice. **IT**
- 7.0 Concert Manager: AS**
- 7.1 For **SFYS AS** reported that he has about 100 minutes of showtime. There is still a possibility of some more acts signing up. It was agreed after discussion that the start time would be 7:30. Ed Bacon will open the show but has passed on the baton to **AS** to introduce the evenings entertainers. **IT** said he would organise the raffle but volunteers were needed to run the bar. **NG** to organise a rota for the bar and circulate before the night, As before a plate of food from everyone. Sylvia Wilson has said she would like to help with the setting up of the food on the night but she will need help.
- 7.2 Abbeygate Sixth Form College is not looking very promising as a rehearsal venue. No tiering at King Edward.
- 7.3 **AS** asked if the Section Leader's Job description had been sent to the Section Leader's. **ML** said he hadn't done this but would after the meeting. **RVdZ** said he would like a line added and would send this to **ML** **RVdZ**
ML
- 8.0 Vice Chairman: IC**
- 8.1 **IC** and Rob Bream visited Thurston College and everything was fine expect for very poor acoustics which is important to the choir. **IC** said it was left to SEMVC to contact Thurston if the choir felt it wanted to pursue it. The committee agreed they wouldn't at this stage. **JM** added that he would talk to Paul Potter at the school with regard to the assembly hall at Beyton. It isn't tiered but believes tea and coffee could be made there for rehearsal intervals. The committee asked **JM** to get some more information regarding hire costs and availability. **JM**
- IT** said that Sybil Andrews Academy looked promising until he asked for Thursday night. **GW** asked if the rehearsal day could be changed. In principal it was agreed that the day could be changed but most of the committee felt that changing rehearsal day might cause too many problems.
- 8.2 **IC** suggested that perhaps the rehearsals at St Mary's could now have people standing closer together. He said the formation at the APEX for the concert would be closer and so it made sense to start rehearsing as the choir will be singing at the concert. **IC** to send an email to **NG** for circulation asking the choir members their views on this. **IC**
- 9.0 Treasurer: AC**
- 9.1 The bank mandate needs updating to reflect the new committee. As 2 signatures are required to make payments **AC** suggested that the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary be added. Until that is drawn up **AC** said he would continue to ask Rob Bream, retiring Chairman to sign anything that is required. There are 2 payments outstanding, £66.36 to **GW** and £1480 + VAT to Pretty's for advice and a letter to Melody Music. The committee agreed to this **ALL**
- 9.2 The choir has funds of £40,870 and within that there is allocated money for various things including the CD fund, staging replacement and travel fund. With the questions asked at the AGM regarding refunds from the cancelled Austria Tour **AC** explained the allocated monies in the above mention funds could be used for other requirements if the committee felt it wanted to. The money in the Presidents Fund cannot be used for other than it is set up to do, namely helping members out financially to go on tours.

- 9.3 The trustees of the choir are the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary it was asked if they should be named. **AC** said he would look into it. **AC**
- 9.4 No document has been received for the formal offer of from Melody Music of £4000 per month to pay the refunds from the cancelled Austrian Tour that stands at over £36000.
- 10.0 **Secretary: ML**
- 10.1 The position with Howard school is that the Head Teacher would like the choir back at her school. The sports hall is currently under refurbishment and should be ready in early November. Once this is completed the dance school who are using the hall 4 days a week will move into the sports hall enabling the choir to return to the school. **ML** added that he would let the committee know of any developments as and when. **ML**
- 11.0 **Membership Secretary: NG**
- 11.1 Andrew Bonner (top tenor) and Paget Fulcher (baritone) have joined the choir.
- 12.0 **Librarian: GW**
- 12.1 Music almost sorted.
- 12.2 Just received Jeff Prosser's music file via **ML**. Jeff left the choir in January when he moved to Norwich.
- 13.0 **Website Co-ordinator: JM**
- 13.1 **JM** said he was eager to get started and felt he would benefit from having a job description. It was suggested that contacting Kevin Farrell the previous person in this position might be a good starting point.
- 14.0 **Any Other Business:**
- 14.1 It was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to formalise the recruitment of a new Musical Director. After a short discussion it was agreed that **IC** would lead with the help of **JM, GW & AS**. **IC** asked that the monetary package for the new MD could be clarified. **RVdZ** said the whole of the Music Team pay structure needed reviewing. **RVdZ**
- 14.2 **IC** asked if anyone knew how Mark Jefferson was appointed. **IT** said there were 4 applicants and they all took half a rehearsal each and then it was decided by the membership.
- 14.3 **IC** said the Equality Policy would be engaged.
- 14.4 The committee discussed getting back to face to face meetings. It was agreed in the short term that meetings could be held at committee members homes. **GW** kindly volunteered to host the next meeting.
- 15.0 **Date of Next Meeting: TUESDAY 19th October 7:30 pm at Glenn Warriner's Home
36 Downing Close, Moreton Hall, IP32 7HU**

