



- 1.0 **Apologies for Absence:** Ross Van de Zande & Ashley Seaborne.
- 1.1 **Present:** Ian Morgan(Chair) Ian Cooper, Ivor Thulborn, Andrew Conquest, Nick Gane, Glenn Warriner, Jules Mills, Mark Jefferson & Malcolm Lodge (Sec.)  
Ian Morgan had been invited to act as an independent chair of the meeting following the Special meeting of the choir held on 18<sup>th</sup> November . He explained that RVdZ had contacted him to say that he was unable to attend.
- 2.0 **Acceptance of minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October:** Minutes of the meeting held on 19/10/21 were accepted by the committee and signed by the secretary as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 **Matters Arising:** None
- 4.0 **Discussion to move the choir forward harmoniously, including better communication between the Committee, Music team and Choir Members**
- 4.1 **IT** said that after the statement released by **RVdZ** to the members it felt like a step backwards. **IT** read out a text message he had received from Viv Braar which included her decision to resign as web master.  
**AC** said he understood **RVdZ's** reaction to his partner being verbally abused.  
All were in agreement that at the Special Meeting it appeared that the choir was heading in the right direction and expecting the meeting to start a process of mediation between **RVdZ & MJ**.  
**IC** said that as it seems that Viv has resigned does anyone know of anyone else. **IT** said **Rob Bream** had mentioned in the past that Colin Burrows, baritone, had a daughter who does similar work. **IC** asked if there was a job description for this and no one thought there was. **IC** said **MJ's** decision at the Special Meeting needed to be put down on paper as a record. **MJ** said he didn't want anyone to leave the choir because of him.  
**IM** said there were clearly issues that needed closure and lessons need to be learned for the future if the choir was to move forward. He added the committee and the choir need to know what **RvdZ** intends to do before any reconciliation can take place. **MJ** said maybe it is time for him to move on. **GW** said the committee and the vast majority of the members wanted **MJ** to stay.
- 4.2 At this stage it was agreed that a letter explaining what the committee intended to do regarding **RvdZ's** statement should be sent to the members before the next rehearsal otherwise a normal rehearsal would not be able to go ahead. After discussion it was agreed to suspend **RvdZ** from the choir until the committee can set up a meeting with a mediator and the Conduct Committee. A letter to **RvdZ** followed by a letter to the members will be sent out before the rehearsal on 25<sup>th</sup> November. **IC** said he would formulate the letter with **IM's** input. **GW** volunteered to compose the letter to be sent to the members. Both letters to be seen by all the committee before being circulated. **MJ** said he wanted the reconciliation door left open. **IC** said the letter would reflect that.

5.0 **Treasurer: AC**

5.1 The surplus from the Apex concert including the 'bucket money' retained by Wish of £990 is £1547 assuming no expenses to come from Lift. It assumes the choir only charges the music team cost of £130 and not the proposed fee of £400.

This surplus allows for a donation of £557 to be made to the Royal British Legion (being £1547 less the funds retained by LIFT) . So that it receives the same amount as Wish then the choir would need to donate £433 and waive the balance of its fee.

(£270 - being £400 less £130 paid to the music team)

**IT** said he gave permission for the bucket collection to go to Wish so it would be difficult to ask for any back. He suggested that the choir make the donation to the Royal British Legion up to £600. This was agreed by the committee.

Sing for your supper will have made a surplus of £255.60 after charging for the room hire and the drinks. The room hire costs reflect a charge of £58.45 taken for cleaning after the event. The Raffle proceeds of £185 were accounted for directly by Ivor to Sylvia for a donation in memory of Ed Wilson

The bank mandate change forms have been submitted to Barclays providing for Malcolm as Secretary and Ross as Chair to be signatories as well as **AC**. In the meantime Rob Bream as authorised by the Committee continues to authorise payments (the Choir requires any two from the mandate to sign).

**AC** said he had nothing further to report at present in relation to our ATOL claim following Melody Music's liquidation so cannot yet provide an estimate of the timing of receipt of our refund claim.

6.0 **Secretary: ML**

**ML** explained that in a recent conversation with the Head Teacher at Howard School it was unlikely that the choir could return until possibly Easter. This is because of ongoing problems with the refurbishment of the sports hall being held up by the insurance company who are paying for this. He proposed that from January the choir rehearsed in the hall at All Saints Church, Park Road. This is the venue that was used for SFYS for a number of years. **ML** asked **MJ** if it would be acceptable as a rehearsal venue and he offered no objections. The committee agreed and **ML** said he would book the hall,

**ML**

7.0 **Any Other Business:**

7.1 **IC** said he would withdraw the advert for the MD position and write to the applicants and thank them for their interest but explain the position is no longer available.

7.2 **IT** said if the committee were in agreement he would like to withdraw his resignation as Concert Secretary. He added he intended to step down at the next AGM. The committee unanimously agreed to this.

7.3 Carols & Chips on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December will be £6.00

7.4 The new tenor, Andrew Bonner had asked Ivor if the choir could sing at Beccles in March/April next year. The committee agreed to this as there are no bookings until June 2022. A memorial concert needs to be staged for the people the choir has lost in the last 2 years.

7.5 **MJ** said he wouldn't be at the rehearsal on 9<sup>th</sup> December as he was having a procedure at hospital and needed to rest for a couple of days. He said he would liaise with Ros Pitcher and Paul Davis before the rehearsal.

7.6 **NG** said that Gus Kepple was not well but that he wanted to keep coming to choir rehearsals. **NG** just wanted the committee to be aware of this in the event he needed help during rehearsals.

8.0 **Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7:30 pm**  
**Deaf & Hard of Hearing Association 28 Northgate Street IP33 1HY**



