

## Minutes of the SGM on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 9.00pm

Apologies: Chris B, Madeleine, Andrew and Liz T, Helen G, Terence, Julie D, Margaret P, Jackie G, Carol M, Charlie, Jen

Pauline explained that the choir's governing documents needed a review. She thanked Jonathan for his hard work and the rest of the committee for their work on the constitution. Clause 7 has been reviewed.

Paul Thompson asked Jonathan to explain the changes. Jonathan explained that the clause originally stated that trustees have to retire after three years as a trustee. He used the Concert Secretary and the Librarian as examples of why that wouldn't work. The changes mean that officers are re-elected every year: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Concert Secretary and Librarian. Otherwise it would be like having a good headteacher who must leave after three years.

Paul said there was a cycle already. He said that there is no way of bringing people in. Jonathan explained that the constitution is **our** constitution and we can write it. If there was a queue of people wanting to be Treasurer etc, it would be different. There is no power struggle involved. It is about protecting key roles.

Pauline added that there is still the opportunity every year for people to put themselves forward as officers. Lesley Butcher said that presumably non-officers on the committee can put themselves forward. Pauline affirmed this; non-officer trustees at the moment may at some point take on an officer role.

Lesley asked for clarification on the Handbook. Jonathan explained that every time there is a change, such as the rehearsal venue, you have to review the whole Handbook, therefore we are having a series of policies instead. The Handbook will now be just a welcoming document.

Ruth Slater asked if these policies will be on the website. Pauline and Jonathan explained that there will be separate pdfs on the website, such as a vulnerable adult policy.

The motion to accept the changes to the constitution was proposed by Tom Moat and seconded by Steve Gough. The vote was **for** accepting the changes.

## **Minutes of the AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

### **immediately after the SGM**

Apologies: Chris B, Madeleine, Andrew and Liz T, Helen G, Terence, Julie D, Margaret P, Jackie G, Carol M, Charlie, Jen

Pauline thanked Joe and Lynne for all they do. She thanked Amanda for agreeing to stay on as accompanist. She pointed out that our first concert after Covid was only a year ago. The feedback that Lynne has received following the last three concerts has been great. Pauline thanked the committee.

Paul Thompson, who was Treasurer until last year, was also thanked, and Liz was welcomed as the new Treasurer. Lesley Butcher, who has completed three years as a trustee, was thanked, and Jonathan was thanked for setting up the Ticket Source system. Pauline also thanked Lesley and Liz for their work on this. Steve Parker was thanked in absentia for all his work with ticket sales.

Pauline recollected how fantastic it was to welcome Vike to the choir and how helpful and fitting it was to have her help when we were rehearsing the Ukrainian Prayer. She thanked Hilary Campbell for all the help she has given to Vike and her daughter.

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were proposed by Janet and seconded by Fiona.

The existing committee was proposed by Tom M and seconded by Panos.

Paul Thompson presented the financial report: We came out of the pandemic in a pretty good state. In the last year we made a big loss. We can't guarantee that we can make a profit on Choral Weekends. The big profit from the Christmas Cracker has also gone. We are paying £100 more per rehearsal than at the convent. With falling audience numbers as well this is not sustainable. There is no point putting on brilliant concerts if nobody is coming to listen. We need to get better at marketing and selling tickets.

Liz provided an update on the finances. Regular income per year is about £13,000. Each concert incurred a loss. Some of the money is now in higher interest accounts. £48,000 is the current total. We need to look at how we can raise more money and sell more tickets.

Joe pointed out that members pay about £10 per month for rehearsals. People in Matlock don't like going to Bakewell for concerts. Without Choral Weekends and the Christmas Cracker we are in a mess.

Ruth Slater suggested that perhaps we need to think about repertoire. She asked about approaching schools and sixth forms. The general consensus was that we have tried all of this already.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm.