

Mevagissey Male Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting, held at St Andrew's church Monday, 15th November 2021, after rehearsal.

Present:

Nick Nicholls – Chair (NN).
Graham Hoskins – Treasurer (GH)
Robin Murphy – Secretary (RM)
Mike Tate (MT)
Simon Lawday (SL)

Chris Williams (CW)
David Leeson (DL)
Clifford Burnett (CB)
Graham Alee (GA)
Bill Roberts (BR)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Humfrey Stobart, Rod Richardson, Roger Mitchell, Steve Gibson

At the start of the meeting, Mike Tate asked permission to read a prepared statement, which he duly did. This provoked much useful discussion, with contributions from most present. In summation, it was generally agreed that during the many months of Zoom-only contact for the choir, lines of communication had likely become a little vague, and that a restoration of what had been usual practice, prior to COVID, would be desirable. Thus, at the end of each rehearsal, time will again be given for the Chairman to share any general notices or information with the whole choir. Likewise, any choir member with any new idea or initiative can contact the Chairman at any time, allowing him to judge whether or not it's a matter more suitable to be dealt with at the weekly rehearsals, or at the monthly committee meetings. If there is a greater degree of urgency, the committee will meet at shorter notice, either in person, or using Zoom.

All agreed that good communication is vital for the health of the choir.

2. **Minutes of meeting held 18 October 2021:** Minutes are accurate and can be put on the website.
3. **Matters arising (if not on agenda)** - DL, commenting on the Treasurer's Report, pointed out the difficulty of collating choir numbers for Birmingham, and, indeed, for the collection of choir subs, when COVID, other cases of illness, and members leaving or retiring, left a degree of uncertainty as how many members the choir actually retains. NN proposed e-mailing each section leader, asking them to report on exact numbers of those in their particular section, who intend to continue their membership of the choir, and, of those, how many felt able to continue with the Birmingham concert. GH asked that the section leaders contact each member personally, either by phone, or face-to-face at rehearsal, as precise numbers are vital, and e-mails can be missed. MT pointed out that HS is away at present, and it was agreed that SG would survey the Baritones.
4. **Almoner's Report:** GA updated the committee on choir members who are unwell, or who are unable to attend rehearsals.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** GH confirmed a transfer from the high-interest savings account to the current account, in order to boost the total there. DL asked how membership subscriptions were looking and GH reported that more than £1500 of subs had been paid in the last few days – a very positive start.
6. **Monday practices:** Another opportunity to remind everyone that the protocols put in place for COVID must be maintained for all our sakes, rather than relaxed.

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7. **Concert Bookings:** CB reported a request, via Gareth Millington, from the Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir. They are interested in a joint concert with us in 22/23.
8. **Bursary:** NN has heard back from Matt Douglas. The candidate for the £270 is a 15 year old pupil at Penrice, who plays guitar, sings in the Cornwall Youth Choir, wrote a song for the G7 summit etc. DL suggested that he should be invited to perform with the choir if possible, as part of the award. NN will progress.
9. **Publicity report:** MT pointed out that with limited tickets available, there was little point in promoting St Augustine's, but that the putative concert on Dec 18 on the quay could do with a boost as soon as it became definite. DL thought that it was still worth a push on any remaining tickets for Dec 11, after Choir members and Friends had been offered them. MT agreed.
10. **CD sales and downloads:** CW reported no sales this month. RM saw our CDs on the shelf at the Fountain, and was told that they would be moved to the bar after Remembrance Day.
11. **MMC 50th Anniversary year 2024:** Held over to next meeting.
12. **Dinner/Dance:** MT suggested that we let Carlyon Bay Golf Club know if we are going to cancel the dinner/dance. They are holding a £200 deposit, which we could transfer to later in the year. A vote to cancel for January was taken and passed. SL suggested a barn dance, GH suggested a BBQ and a disco, and GA suggested a Choir talent night. **Choir Manager/Friends of the Choir (MT)** held over to next month.
13. **AOB:** NN read a letter from Phil Taylor, about the Birmingham concert. Discussion followed – Phil T. is pressurising us for a decision on participation, but we don't want to be liable for financial penalties if we pull the plug, when the general opinion is that the Federation may well have to cancel it themselves. NN to proceed, once we have the section numbers confirmed.

Date & venue of next meeting:

This will take place in St. Andrew's Church, after our rehearsal, on Monday 13 December 2021.