

**Mevagissey Male Choir**  
**i**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting, Tues October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7.30pm.**  
**Ship Inn, Polmear**

**Present:**

Steve Gibson – Chair (SG).  
Tony Scarratt – Vice Chair (TS)  
Robin Murphy – Secretary (RM)  
Graham Hoskins – Treasurer (GH)

Clive Cudmore (CC)  
Chris Williams (CW)  
Clifford Burnett (CB)  
Bill Roberts (BR)

1. Apologies/Absent – Roger Mitchell, Graham A’Lee, Dave Leeson, Steve Truscott
2. Minutes of 19/09/2023 meeting – After accepting an addition by ST to ‘6. Trailer’, the minutes were deemed to be accurate, and ready for publication on the website.
3. Matters arising (if not on agenda, or due to be raised in AOB) None.
4. Treasurer’s report: (GH) Graham explained that the multiple entries were the cash deposits from the quay concert collections, which the bank didn’t want ‘all at once’. There was an extremely kind and generous donation of £200 from Sylvie Thwaites. More interest has accrued for the tour fund. The deposit was paid for the Torbay weekend. Expenditure of £280 went on two songs (‘The Bells’ and ‘Country Roads’). The end of our financial year falls at the end of this month (October). Three members have left, so to date, we have 50 paid-up members. RM said we need more clarity for new members, as to when they can actually sing with us at concerts. If we are not to have the old ‘voice-test’ system, how can they work towards becoming full members? SG to discuss with Jimmy.
5. Concert bookings: (RM) After thanking CB for his great efforts this year (we have a full diary for 2024 already), RM pointed out that we have

firmed up our principles of accepting two bookings per month, playing in fewer churches, and playing, where possible, to new audiences, as well as clearing the calendar for Jan and Feb (and possibly Sept), so that they can be kept free for introducing and rehearsing new material. RM also suggests that we 'ring-fence' certain dates in advance. We already do this for Feast Week, and Harvest of the Sea, and we should add the Mevagissey Shanty Festival to the list. It was a great success this year and has become Mevagissey's major music event of the year. A number of us enjoyed the event, and Press Gang and Mevagissey Quay Notes put on great shows. We've been invited, as the Choir, next year, with no pressure to sing 'shanties' rather than our usual repertoire. CW felt that many in the choir were put off accepting before, because of the 'shanty' tag. RM said that Tristram Netherton (festival organiser), wants to broaden the scope of the music on offer for 2024. GH suggested they change the title to Mevagissey Music and Shanty Festival. CB pointed out that date clashes sometimes occur because some people don't check the website often enough. SG said we need to be as selective as possible with dates, to protect the choir. TS said we need to be paid more for concerts. GH said we need to be less generous with our quay concert collections, as they are now the only source of funds for us, the choir, throughout the year.

6. Future concerts: (CB) Cliff had a list of requests for concerts – St Austell Arts, Caerhays Castle, Llawncroc Hotel, Gorran Haven. All of these were discussed and it was agreed that they would be put to the choir.
7. 50<sup>th</sup> concert: (RM) RM and SG had a meeting with Jimmy, and Angela Renshaw (Cornwall Youth Choir). Both Angela and Jimmy were very keen on the project, Angela saying that her youth choir would love to do songs with us. We would need to fit in rehearsals with the youngsters during the Jan/Feb period. All her choir members have signed indemnities/disclaimers to cover advertising, photos, recordings etc, as well as live-streaming. We aim to meet again before the end of November.
8. A.O.B. CB said some in his section had raised concerns about some rehearsals, when we appeared to be spending time warming up, when we could be running through songs for the next concert. SG said he'd mention it to Jimmy. TS introduced and demonstrated a possible new weatherproof coat/jacket for choir members, which all agreed looked fine.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Our next committee meeting  
will be on Tues 21<sup>st</sup> November,  
at the Social Club, Mevagissey, at 7.30pm.**