

Mevagissey Male Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting, Tues 12th April 2022, 7.30pm. Mevagissey Social Club

Present:

Nick Nicholls – Chair (NN).
Graham Hoskins – Treasurer (GH)
Robin Murphy – Secretary (RM)
Steve Gibson (SG) – Vice Chair (SG)
Mike Tate – Publicity (MT)
Dave Leeson (DL)

Chris Williams (CW)
Simon Lawday (SL)
Clifford Burnett (CB)
Roger Mitchell (RoM)
Bill Roberts (BR)
Humfrey Stobart (HS)

1. Apologies/Absent - None
2. Minutes of 12/03/2022 meeting – The minutes were deemed to be accurate, and ready for publication on the website.
3. Matters arising (if not on agenda) – None
4. **Federation monies.** NN reported that the choir has paid all monies owed to the Federation for the Birmingham concert. 45 tickets had been issued by the Federation to choir members, but only 18 have been paid for so far, by those that had ordered them
5. **Ukraine concert.** Deemed a real success, raising £6000 overall, and with many complements to the choir, despite numbers being severely diminished by illness. Only 15 sang, with just 2 basses, but despite that their efforts were much appreciated.
6. **Treasurers report.** GH has already posted his report online, detailing on the one side the payment to the Federation for tickets issued, and on the other, highlighting ST's success in a much-improved revenue stream from selling programme adverts, and making headway with donations, and potential sponsorships.

7. **A.O.B.** There was a lengthy discussion about the choir's musical direction, and the position of Musical Director. Almost everyone present contributed, and two conclusions developed. Firstly, that huge thanks are due to Mike Thompson and Nick Hart. Mike, for stepping in at short notice, and with such good humour and musical confidence that the Minack concert is once again an exciting prospect; and to Nick Hart, whose quiet skill and enthusiasm guided us through the St John's concert. Secondly, that whilst having a proper musical direction and a Musical Director is vital for the continued wellbeing of our choir, that we remain cognisant of the invaluable contribution to us, for more than two decades, of Graham Willcocks. His sabbatical is his choice, and we have no wish to pressure him into any hasty decision, whilst being fully aware of upcoming choir commitments, and our collective responsibility for our choir's future. We will pursue this discussion at our next meeting.

NN suggested a small group to investigate possible ways to celebrate the choir's 50th birthday in 2024. SG, HS, MT and RM were suggested, and DL thought we should canvas the choir for an enthusiastic member to join the group.

GH suggested using CRPO to ticket our Feast Week concert. For a small charge, they provide an excellent service, and would solve problems like one that MT brought up, on behalf of one of the Friends of the Choir. CB said that the organiser of the 'Man Down' event in September wanted us to wave our concert fee. NN pointed out that our fee barely covers the costs of our music team, and that we should not agree to bear that extra cost. ST said that the organiser no longer wanted to sponsor the choir.

The next committee meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday May 17th, at the Mevagissey Social Club.

8. Isaac Salaman, the young musician that received our bursary, has spent the money on much-needed recording equipment. GH suggested that he'd listen to a piece that Isaac has recorded, and, if suitable, Isaac would be invited to perform at our feast week concert, and allow him to link to our Facebook page, and website. SL is trying to organise a choir social event in September, either at Carlyon Golf Club, or the Barley Sheaf in Gorran Churchtown. ST asked if he could contact the Barley Sheaf first, as he was looking to them to advertise with the choir.

CW raised the subject of the choir buying its own PA equipment. This received across-the-board support, and CW and GH agreed to source the gear needed, to a maximum of £3200. GH also stressed that we really need a gazebo, to protect the electronics for outside shows. ST said that he may have a sponsor lined up to fund/part-fund the PA. MT to ask Matt Facey to take a choir photo at St John's, primarily for use in the Minack programme.

9. **Next committee meeting.** Tuesday 17th May, Mevagissey Social Club.