



# Mevagissey Male Choir

Raising funds and raising spirits since 1974



www.meva-choir.co.uk  
Registered Charity No:298985

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

Mevagissey Social Club on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Meeting opened 7.35pm

**PRESENT:** N. Nicholls (NN); G. Hoskins (GH); R. Mitchell (RM); C. Burnett (CB); P. Bowker (PB); S. Lawday (SL); C. Williams (CW);

**1 APOLOGIES:** M. Tate (MT); P. Vellenoweth (PV); A. Gill (AG); S. Gibson (SG); H. Stobart (HS);

**2 MINUTES** of meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017: proposed, GH; seconded PB, carried unanimously, and signed by NN.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING:**

**Riser storage:** Store in Church Police Room being cleared for us to use as storage of equipment. **Action: RM** to check with Gil Blamey size of room available to us as there is confusion about a small inner room. **Action: CB** to write to church with thanks for the offer of space.

**Riser transport:** The issue of a facility for transporting equipment was discussed at length. **PB** confirmed that a new box trailer via Ifor Williams would cost £3,235 plus VAT or £2,840 plus VAT depending on size. However, **PB** had identified two second hand trailers which looked suitable and in good condition. The cheaper one, which was twin axle, would cost £1,800. It would be checked out mechanically, electrically, and for waterproofing, at no expense to the Choir, and delivered without charge. See attached photo.

**Motion** to purchase trailer for £1,800, proposed by **GH**, seconded by **SL** and carried unanimously. **PB** said it would also be necessary to buy a wheel clamp and a secure padlock at a cost of c £80 -£90. **Action: PB**. The meeting next discussed the question of a venue for the trailer's storage. **PV** offered a facility and **Action RM** would check with Willows Car Park to see if they had space. As a last resort, the trailer could be stored at Driveline (London Apprentice) for £24 per month. **PB** suggested that the matter should rest with members. Similarly, members should be asked if they were prepared to institute a rota of a few members to tow it to concerts. **PB** would tow, but only in the last resort.

**Concert microphone:** It was generally agreed that the use of a mic at the Stithians concert had worked well.

**Motion** that we should buy one mic plus stand etc. for a maximum £150 proposed by **PB**, seconded by **GH**, and carried with one vote against.

#### 4 CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank you letters sent to Mevagissey Council and Friends who have donated  
No letter sent to Dawn Stallwood – no banner contribution received, confirmed by **GH**.

Email from London Welsh – forwarded to Concert Secretary. **CB** had since written to London Welsh and had no response – agreed no further action.

#### 5 TREASURER:

(Copy of monthly account attached) XXX

**GH** reported that circa £3K had been received during month, of which £1,150 would be paid to Feast Week Committee. All subs were now resolved and most paid.

**Donations:** Bibbi Lee, from the US, had donated £184.21 (\$250). Proceeds from Feast Week buckets were £126. However, two buckets had gone missing. **Action:** **RM** to ask Gil Blamey to enquire at Church. **GH** to buy three more buckets.

**Easy Fundraising:** **GH** said this was much easier now, with prompts when buying something, and that members should look at this again. **Action:** **GH** to mention at forthcoming practice **SL** asked about the cost of the Stithians Coach hire. **GH** reported that it was £300, which is what we were paid for the concert. Music team would have been paid anyway for Practice, so there was no loss to the Choir.

**NN** said he was pleased to see such a healthy Balance Sheet halfway through year.

#### 6 CDs:

**CW** reported 4 sold at Yealmpton – none at Stithians. One download for £5 taken. Stocks at various locations replenished. **PB** had agreed with Lyn at Fountain that he could put more prominent sign for CD rack. **Action:** **PB**.

#### 7 FUNDRAISING:

**PB** reported that Meva Parish Council would issue a £250 cheque on Thursday. **Action:** **MT** to acknowledge and thank them after receipt.

Advert payments from Steve Andrews and Barley Sheaf not received. **Action:** **PB** to chase. **PB** suggested a pop-up charity shop during Quay concerts period to see if we could raise funds by selling members' unwanted items! He was trying to secure the old Post Office FOC where stuff could be delivered prior to putting on sale. Cooperation from members would be needed to supply stuff and a rota of members to help man the shop for up to four hours a day for a week.

**Action:** **PB** to canvass members on Monday practice next.

#### 8 CONCERT DEBRIEF:

Everyone happy with last three concerts, with MD particularly complimentary about Stithians concert. **Yealmpton** **MT** reported that he had twice confirmed

with organisers that they would provide compere! CB also confirmed. However, no compere provided. More clarification needed in future

**CB** was concerned about lack of members to help with removal of risers etc., after concerts. Suggested that it could be done by Sections in rotation. **Action:** **NN** to put this to members.

## 9 QUAY CONCERT(S) ARRANGEMENTS

Matt Fox would be available for all five concerts. **Action:** **PB** to deploy usual banner on Quay and Chas to put out 'A' board each Monday as previously, and to see if additional Banner can be deployed at Tesco entrance road as previously proposed by MT.

**NN** to check on tide times and issue alerts/decisions as appropriate.

**NN** to appoint comperes. **PB** agreed to compere first concert.

**NN** to ask Gerald Goode to help with buckets as usual.

**NN** to check that risers can be stored in Club Library as usual

**GH** to provide posters and flyers.

## 10 NEW CONCERTS

**Truro Cathedral:** concert on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018 confirmed.

**Bude:** Chris Bale is attempting to arrange a concert.

**Action:** **PB** to nudge St Austell Brewery re possibility of a concert for them in appreciation of their support. Also to pursue Trebah Gardens Amphitheatre to see if it could be hired as an opportunity for a fund raising concert at some future date.

## 11 BARBECUE:

Barley Sheaf, Gorran, confirmed as venue for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm for 7pm. **Action:** **PB** and **SL** will circulate members over next few weeks to secure names and payments.

## 12 MEMBERSHIP (SECTION LEADERS)

No new members on horizon.

**Top Tenors:** No report

**Second Tenors:** **RM** reported that Paul Horsman hoped to re-take voice test in next few weeks; and pleased that Ian Ridler passed his voice test. Mark Dooling has decided to withdraw. **Action:** **RM** to arrange to collect music and uniform.

**Baritones:** No report

**Basses:** Paul Uzzell has passed voice test. No news re Saul Sandey **Action:** **NN** to ascertain whether Saul plans to return - if not, to recover uniform and music.

## 13 PRACTICE AND CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Chairman reported Music Director's concern at poor attendance by a few individuals. **Action:** **Section leaders** to monitor attendance records at practice and **NN** to ask George Phillips to draw up a list on a Monday preceding a concert of those planning to sing at that concert.

## 14 ALMONER

No report, AG absent. Cedric Bray has not been seen for a while. **Action: NN** to check.

## **15 MUSIC COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Terry Coplin reported that there was 'Nothing new to report. I have found a couple items to be considered. The main difficulty is that we are not able to meet with GW to discuss. **CW** confirmed that, despite not being able to have meetings with GW, they still met at practices to discuss any new proposals. RM expressed his pleasure that 'Ave Maria' is to be reinstated in the repertoire.

## **15 PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

Website now up to date, thanks to MWD Thompson. Contains up-to-date-choir directory; arrangements for forthcoming events, i.e. concerts, barbecue etc. Press coverage in Tower & Spire re Quay concerts – other media contacted.

## **16 FRIENDS' BENEFITS**

**MT** reported that, according to our website and our programmes, Friends of the Choir are offered a series of benefits that were more appropriate when membership carried a fee. **MT** proposed, second by **PB**, that these should be changed, to read as follows:

- a regular, informative newsletter
- the opportunity to join us on coaches to concerts
- the opportunity to join us in our social gatherings, such as our annual dinner, barbecues, and other social gatherings.

The motion was carried unanimously.

## **17 CHOIR UNIFORMS ETC**

**NN** read out a letter from Graham Rundle, in which he expressed concern about members' appearance at concerts. A decision to renew shirts at a cost of £1,000 would need approval at the AGM. **Action: HS** to check that all members look smart at performances, e.g. with belts and buttons done up.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Committee discussed a proposal by PB that the Choir offer a £250 bursary each year to a worthy child/children for singing lessons. This would be in line with our Charity's Aims and Objects of promoting music and singing etc., and provide a good opportunity for publicity each year, with features in local publications of the offer and the child awarded the bursary. The idea was deemed to be worthy of further research and possible implementation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.18pm

**NEXT MEETING:** 7.30pm, Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, Mevagissey Social Club