

Okehampton Choral Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 13th February 2018 at 7.15pm at 25 New Road Okehampton.

Present: Bill Sutton-Coulson (Chairman), Pat Stanford (Vice Chair), Ann Ball (Hon Treas) Mark Betambeau (Hon Sec), Helen Dewhurst and Jean Ankcorn and Jenny Gibbons.

1. Apologies – were received from Andrew Wilson, Richard Edwards and Daphne Hanlon.
2. Minutes of the meeting on 9th January 2018 were approved as an accurate record.
4. Matters Arising: -

Constitution It was reported that an email had been received from Richard asking that the new constitution be brought before the first Committee meeting of the summer term and enclosing a version he had drafted from notes taken at the October meeting. Richard also wanted the opportunity to bring forward for discussion a voting restriction recommended by NAS. Bill had read and agreed Richard's draft but wanted to bring forward a further amendment concerning the introduction of an honorary class of membership. Bill said he would discuss matters with Richard and it was agreed that the Constitution would be included on the agenda of the next meeting with a view to arranging an SGM in the summer term.

Raffles Pat thought it a pity that the Society had been unable to benefit from the proceeds of Raffles at Fairplace concerts. Bill had however been unable to obtain agreement from the Church.

5. Treasurer's Report Ann reported that the balances in the Society accounts were now as follows:
- Deposit A/c £2,195.09, current A/c £1,672.72 giving a total of £3,867.81.

6. Telephone Cascade Mark reported that following his meeting with Richard, a draft cascade had been devised consisting of 5 tiers which had been emailed to Committee members. The approach appeared satisfactory but concerns were expressed over typographical inaccuracies and the possibility that some members may have dropped out. Committee members were asked to notify Mark of any known issues prior to final circulation.

7. Remuneration for Concerts The Committee was reminded that the agreed remuneration for the MD did not cover additional work generated by termly concerts and that it had been agreed at the last meeting that the Society would give allowances for such work. After careful consideration it was proposed by Pat Stanford and seconded by Jean Ankcorn that the MD be paid £200.00 per non-orchestral concert programme. Thus, where (as for instance in most Christmas terms) there may be three concerts following a similar programme, the fee would be payable only once. The Committee accepted that a higher fee would indeed be appropriate for any concert involving a full orchestra but that this would be set formally when planning for such an occasion as part of the normal concert budget. This was agreed unanimously.

7. Continued Concern was also expressed as to the remuneration being paid to the Society's resident organist/accompanist. Following further discussion, it was proposed by Jenny Gibbons and seconded by Helen Dewhurst that the organist's remuneration be increased to £20.00 for each attendance. This was agreed unanimously.

8. Forthcoming Concerts It was agreed that the cost of tickets for the spring Opera Gala be fixed at £10.00 with those in full-time education set at £5.00. Posters were expected to be available on Monday 19th February and tickets would again be obtainable in the town both at Beanfeast and Donald's. Helen was asked if she would kindly look after the necessary publicity. Bill had spoken to his team regarding provision of teas and coffees on the day but it was confirmed that there would be no lunches required. This year's Christmas Concert was set for 14th December for which a booking could now be made. There then ensued a discussion about possible additional concerts at St Thomas's Exeter and at Winkleigh. Bill to make further enquiries and report back.

9. AOB Waitrose had invited representatives of local organisations (including OCS) to attend an informal gathering on 27th March at the Okehampton store. Jean and Mark to attend. Jenny asked if we could table for discussion at the next meeting, an item concerning the Okehampton Charities and to consider making an approach.

10. The next Committee meeting was set for Tuesday 3rd April.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.