

## Okehampton Choral Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.15pm at 25 New Road Okehampton.

Present: Bill Sutton-Coulson (Chairman), Pat Stanford (Vice Chair), Mark Betambeau (Hon Sec), Andrew Wilson, Richard Edwards, Daphne Hanlon, Helen Dewhurst, Jean Ankcorn and Jenny Gibbons.

1. Apologies – were received from Ann Ball.
2. Minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were approved as an accurate record.
4. Matters Arising: The meeting set for 8<sup>th</sup> January had had to be postponed.

It was reported that the Telephone Cascade had, by many, been poorly received and that half the members had not received a copy. This was because Tier 6 (representing 50% of the membership) are message receivers only and did not need to be listed in the telephone tree. Problems had also arisen with some members being uncontactable by phone, resulting in lower tiers receiving no notification. Jenny thought it would be far better for cancellation alerts to be published on Facebook or perhaps a website – see Item 9 below.

5. Treasurer's Report The Treasurer had passed to Mark a note showing the OCS balance as at 23<sup>rd</sup> April and this was reported. The Current A/c stood at £718.93; the Deposit a/c £2,970.24 giving a total of £3,689.17. Ticket sales from the Easter Concert had amounted to £1,090 although expenses (not including MD & accompanist term fees or Fairplace hire) were £683.79 bringing the proceeds (thus far) to £406.21.

6. The proposition put forward by Richard as set out in the agenda was unanimously agreed.

### 7. Final Amendments to the Draft Constitution

Various suggestions were made and debated concerning the proposed constitution and Bill circulated a note of three major changes. These concerned the Chairman's casting vote, voting rights of the MD and a new provision facilitating appointment of an Honorary Life President. A further amendment was put forward that under Article 11, the quorate Committee of the Society be empowered to call an EGM even where comprised of less than 10 members. The four amendments were unanimously agreed but it was considered that the item concerning the Hon. Life President should be listed as Article 15 and the item on Dissolution be renumbered 16.

The Chairman promised to amend the draft forthwith and to circulate it to members of the Committee. Both the existing and proposed constitutions are to be circulated to members with a recommendation from the Committee that the new Constitution be approved.

The date of the Extraordinary General Meeting was set for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 immediately following rehearsal.

8. Forthcoming Activities Andrew suggested the summer term commence on 10<sup>th</sup> September but that he would be unable to attend on 17<sup>th</sup> October suggesting members might like a half-term break. For the 14<sup>th</sup> December concert, he had in mind performing a selection from Bach's Christmas Oratorio which might be used at another venue in December – possibly St Thomas's in Exeter. Andrew was also thinking about another concert on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (a Saturday) possibly to perform Haydn's Little Organ Mass together with some of Handel's anthems.

Andrew anticipated returning on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 preparing for a summer concert at the end of June or beginning of July with Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June being a distinct possibility. It was hoped all these dates could be announced to members at the start of September 2018. Also, there was agreement that members would relish a large concert with orchestral accompaniment and Andrew was asked to consider if such a concert could be included in the programme for 2019/20. Mark agreed to update Ann Drew with known booking requirements.

9. Society Website Jenny Gibbons spoke about the desirability of the Society having its own website to provide a wider reach for both concertgoers and potential members. The Facebook page set up by Andrew had proved extremely helpful and the Committee were supportive of any proposals for the Society to have a bespoke website which might be more accessible and might also be designed to store information with varying levels of accessibility. It was unlikely the Society could call on a volunteer to undertake such a venture and there was a possibility that some financial assistance might be forthcoming from the Okehampton United Charities.

It was proposed by Mark Betambeau and seconded by Pat Stanford that an application be made to the OUC for financial assistance. This was unanimously agreed.

10. AOB

The Chairman pointed out that the Society Accompanist had not been given a full remuneration for his attendance at the Easter Concert and suggested he be paid a supplement bringing him into line with other soloists attending, the precise figure to be determined on further research. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice Chairman and unanimously agreed.

11. The next Committee meeting was set for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The meeting ended at 9.03pm.