

Okehampton Choral Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 21st January 2019 held 6.00pm at Fairplace.

Present: Jenny Gibbons (Chairman), Pat Stanford (Vice Chair), Mark Betambeau (Hon Sec), Stan Johnson (Hon Treasurer) Daphne Hanlon (Librarian), Richard Edwards Jean Ankcorn and Helen Dewhurst.

1. Apologies – were received from Andrew Wilson and Ann Ball.
2. The minutes of the ad hoc meeting of 12th November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.
3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
4. Hon Treasurer's Report. The Society's Instant Access Account now stood at £2,971 while the current Account was showing £1,494. The Christmas concert had grossed £850 in ticket sales of which £442 had been incurred in expenses, with further payments still to be made to the MD and Organist. Stanley pointed out that it was necessary to have an assistant with him while collecting in the subs/registration slips and this was agreed. Thus far, 44 members had renewed for the spring term but it would be necessary to add some who were paying annually. Concern was expressed as to members believing they had dispensation from subscriptions. After discussion it was confirmed that all members of the choir are expected to subscribe after 6 rehearsals.
5. Insurance Cover. The NAC was offering competitive terms for choir insurance and concern was expressed that members of the Committee were unaware of the scope of the Society's present cover. Jenny was now in receipt of the policy and undertook to scan and distribute it to Committee Members. Bill offered to go through the policy (which is renewable in November) and to report back on its suitability and value for money, as against the cover offered by NAC.
6. Christmas Concerts. Richard expressed concern that the choir's inability to perform two Christmas concerts last term had been viewed unsatisfactorily and an opportunity missed. It was agreed that in 2019 the Society would put on a concert in addition to Fairplace. Consideration was given to putting on a concert at the Octagon (Okehampton College) or possibly North Tawton. It was agreed that Jenny would investigate costs and discuss possibilities with Andrew.
7. Spring Concert. The cost of posters was discussed. Helen offered to prepare the flyers. Beanfeast was no longer willing to sell tickets but Beryl at 'Cargo Cult' was a possibility and it was suggested that the Fairplace shop could be approached. There were 15 publications to be contacted. It was reported that All Saints had insufficient accommodation for the soloists' changing of clothes. Jean offered to organise a list of hosts to provide sandwich teas for those soloists and musicians living outside the area – provisionally, this would include Bill, Richard, Jean and Mark but may be widened. Assistance would be required in setting up and clearing of furniture which would be put to members. It was agreed we should run a raffle with a Hamper provided as first prize. Jenny agreed to organise the soloists' flowers.

8. MD's Remuneration. It was reported that the concert fees to the Director of Music were not being paid as per the Committee resolution of 13th February 20th 2018 and that some fees were outstanding. The Society was committed to paying £600 for Andrew's attendances at the Carol Concert 2017, the Madrigals and the Opera Choruses although only £350 had been paid for these services, the deficit being £250. It was agreed that no fee would need to be paid in respect of the Princetown Concert which had not been instigated by the Society. As to the forthcoming March concert, it was agreed that the Society would try to allocate £300 for the MDs services on the day. It was proposed by Jenny and seconded by Bill that the £250 owed to Andrew should now be paid and that the March fee should be considered in the light of the outstanding grant application. This was unanimously agreed.

9. AOB There was no other business. It was agreed that Chairman and Secretary would together fix the date of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm