

Okehampton Choral Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 16th September 2019 held 6.00pm at Fairplace.

Present: Jenny Gibbons (Chair), Pat Stanford (Vice Chair), Mark Betambeau (Hon Sec), Stan Johnston (Hon Treas) Daphne Hanlon (Librarian), Andrew Wilson, Ann Ball, and Richard Edwards.

1. Apologies – were received from Bill Sutton-Coulson and Jean Ankcorn.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 3rd June 2019 were considered. It was proposed by Ann Ball and seconded by Daphne Hanlon that the minutes be approved as an accurate record subject to the amendment that Ann Ball be listed as having been present. This was agreed.
3. Matters Arising.
 - (i) Spring Concert: The Treasurer gave a breakdown of income and expenditure for the Spring Concert at All Saints Church. This was noted.
 - (ii) Register of Attendees: This had been reintroduced on commencement of Autumn term rehearsals. Andrew agreed to remind members of the reasons for this move. Mark to arrange purchase of clipboards.
 - (iii) Elgar Society: Jenny reported that the Elgar Society was not awarding grants for non-orchestral Concerts. It was agreed that no application be made.
4. Hon Treasurer's Report. Stan gave figures for the Summer Concerts which showed income of £830 against expenditure of £615. In his view this was not sufficient to maintain sustainability and had already this year had to transfer £500 from the Society's Deposit Account to make ends meet. Having banked approximately £1,000 from subscriptions in the last week, balances were: Current Account - £1,344. Deposit Account - £2,472.
5. OCS Insurance. Jenny circulated brief details of two policies available through the NAC; a basic package and an enhanced package costing £71.84 and £137.00 respectively. This compared favourably with the cost of the Society's present Insurance, the cost of which was currently £366.31. Neither policy included cover for cancellation losses but such cover would be capable of being added on an *ad hoc* basis should this be deemed appropriate for future events. It was pointed out that the policies were available only for as long as the Society remained a member of NAC. After some discussion it was proposed by Stan Johnson and seconded by Mark Betambeau that the basic package be purchased at the time of renewal in November 2019. This was agreed.
6. Christmas Concerts. The Fairplace Christmas Concert would this year take place on Saturday 14th December. There followed a short discussion on concert expenditure after which it was proposed by Pat Stanford and seconded by Daphne Hanlon that the MD's fees this Christmas be set at £200 for each concert. Discussion then turned to the staging of the second concert at the Congregational Church Crediton on Monday 16th December. Despite some concern as to potential financial loss, it was agreed that Jenny go ahead and book the venue. Helen to seek assistance from Crediton AmDram as to posters and advertising. Mark to advise Ann Drew of Church bookings up to 9th December, but with one additional Concert evening on 14th.

7. Forthcoming Concert Programme. It was agreed that the Spring term is to commence on Monday 6th January continuing through to a Concert at Fairplace on 4th April 2020. Andrew reported that the Spring concert programme would necessitate appointment of four soloists but that he hoped one would be free, being that his appearance would be offered as the prize in a music competition. Andrew did however request that the piano be tuned for this occasion. The Summer concert was to be at Fairplace on Friday 17th July 2020 at Fairplace Church. Jenny to speak to Mary Hindson about the possibility of staging another Concert (using the same programme) at Hatherleigh Methodist Church.

8. Forthcoming AGM. Owing to time pressure, this item was deferred to a later meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm. The date of the next meeting will be communicated to Officers and Committee Members in due course.