

Okehampton Choral Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 25th February 2019 held 6.00pm at Fairplace.

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

1. Apologies – were received from Ann Ball.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 21st January 2019 were agreed with the amendment that Bill Sutton Coulson be added to the list of those present.
3. Matters Arising.

Spring Concert. Bill offered to organise, with volunteers, the setting out of chairs.
There was a perceived need to have parking prefects in attendance.
Refreshments for musicians. There had been 23 offers from members.
Jenny offered to organise flowers for the female soloists.
A team from All saints had confirmed availability on the night.
Church Keys – Margaret (living nearby) would be asked.
Jenny reported that the Society's present insurers fee for cancellation cover on an all risks basis seemed exorbitant. It was proposed by Mark Betambeau and seconded by Bill Sutton Coulson that a lesser cancellation risk endorsement be purchased. Jenny to look into it. Bill to organise the raffle.

Summer .. Jenny sought confirmation that Fairplace had been booked for 29th June 2019.

Concessions. Clarification was sought on the Society's policy for student concessions which had not been fully covered in the new constitution. It was pointed out that the practice of the society had been for full-time students to be exempt although the possibility of part-time or mature students' concessions had not been formally considered. It was proposed by Mark Betambeau and seconded by Bill Sutton Coulson that the matter be put before the next AGM but in the meantime, the Society's practice of allowing all students to attend free of would be honoured and that part-time students would pay half subscription. This was agreed unanimously.

Insurance. Bill Sutton Coulson circulated a report he had kindly prepared following concerns expressed at the last meeting over the cost and scope of the Society's existing cover and the need for a proper review. Within the time available, it was not possible to discuss the report in detail and since the policy renewal was not due until November 2019, it was agreed that this would be deferred to a later meeting.

4. Hon Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer reported that the bank mandate had been changed and that it was now easier to deposit and withdraw moneys from the Society's accounts. It was still not possible to confirm the full extent of membership since it was unclear whether the reduction in attendees was as a result of delay or in order to avoid altogether the spring term. He suggested that it would be helpful if members were to sign-in on a register weekly. It was reported that the fees levied by Fairplace were to be increased from £6.00 to £7.00 per hour from 1st April 2019

5. Grant from Okehampton United Charities. It was reported that the application to OUC made in the New Year to assist with the cost of the Spring Concert had been approved and that the Society had been awarded the sum of £2,300.00. A vote of thanks was given for those involved.

6. Secretary's Absence. Mark indicated that owing to changed circumstances, and his recent purchase of a motorhome, there will be times during the summer term when he might not be available for rehearsals owing to social commitments. It was unlikely therefore that he would be prepared or available for the summer concerts and possibly, dependent on timing, Committee Meetings over the summer months. The position was noted and the Vice Chair Pat Stanford had offered to take minutes as necessary in the Secretary's absence.

7. Summer Concert. Andrew was intending to introduce a lighter programme for the summer including Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo by Flanders/Horovitz together with a selection from Encores for Choirs. Books were available till mid-July and Daphne is pursuing an order. A second concert was under consideration and Andrew will be looking around for a host church, possibly sharing ticket money with a proviso as to the host meeting Director's and accompanist's fees. South Tawton was a possibility. Jenny also agreed to look into possible venues for Christmas.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.15pm.