

Sandbach Choral Society

Minutes of Committee Meeting - 12th November 2019

1. Present

Margaret Smith, Sue Cooke, Pat Arnold, Julie Barker, Frank Barker, Joyce Watson, Ena Furber, Karen Dryland-Wainwright

2. Apologies

Sandy Boyle, Stephen Newlove, Andrew Green

3. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting 08/10/19

Amended to say access in December to the Town Hall is from 3.30.

4. Matters arising from 08/10/19

The Welcome Pack has been updated and re-issued to members as the Members' Handbook. All details which are also in the constitution now match.

Jayne Peach has agreed to be our safeguarding officer. She queried doing a risk assessment but she is responsible for children and vulnerable adults in our care.

5. Items under AOB

1. Choir insurance
2. Amazon Smile
3. Calendar
4. Setting up for rehearsals
5. Concert etiquette
6. New secretary

6. Treasurer's Report.

Current balance is £22,385, Interest is due on 13 November, easyfundraising has yielded £15.86.

The November concert made a loss of £1,803.26, price of programmes still to be known.

Soloists' fees are a fixed fee and we do not pay travel expenses on top. All reference to travel expenses is to be removed from all contract templates. **SC/MS**

7. Review November Concert

The rehearsal schedule produced for the afternoon of the concert by Stephen was a good idea and welcomed by choir members. Poor audience figures were put down to the later production of posters, the next ones will be prepared much earlier but the shops in Sandbach will only display them two weeks before the event. When future posters are available they will be published on the back of the programme and the whole list of members will be published in the programme, not just the names of those who say they are singing.

Red Arnold has offered to take the posters to the shops in town. They will be displayed on our website. Town Hall staff members Helen Pugh and Jayne Barber were most helpful. The tenors from ACS who sang with us were impressed by the standard of our singing.

MS has been contacted by Donald Bailey of Holmes Chapel Music Society who will advertise our March concert in their next programme. He checked on price and contact details. **JW/SC/RA/MS**

8. Recruitment & retention of members

We need to recruit more soprs, tenors and basses. Delia and David Silverwood are to be approached to put an attention-grabbing article in the press in the first few days of the new year. While we will not turn anyone away, we must guard against putting too much weight into the alto section. Some altos may be either soprano or even tenor. Sue will include it on our website. **MS/SC**

9. Concert updates a) Dec 19 b) March 20 c) July 20

a) Ticket prices: £10 for all when bought beforehand, those bought on the day are £12.

Julie and Frank have created a staging plan for the town hall to be used in our next concert. Absentees need to be known early and any extra seats for guest singers need to be known at least two days before the concert.

We will use Holmes Chapel's P A system and MS will ask choir members for help to transport the keyboard on the day if needed. Peter Doughty will transport the podium and the stand.

The soloists have the list of carols, the three downloads and Magnificat.

Messiah scores can be held on their own, not in folders.

Andrew is to accompany us.

Choir uniform: men can add colour in bow ties, cummerbund, etc and the ladies can add sparkle and glitter whilst dressed in black. No headdresses!

Andrew had spoken to Pat and Margaret about a new portable JohannusOne organ which he had seen at a meeting. He was most enthusiastic. Pat says we can afford it. It was suggested it could be hired out. He is to be asked if we can 'borrow' it for our Christmas concert to see what it sounds like in our venues.

J&FB/MS

b) St Mary's church has been booked, cost £250, set up from 1.00pm. They are now in an interregnum and all arrangements must go through Anne Birch. The archers will be in the church hall from 1.30 so any chairs must be moved before then. The church hall is hired separately and nothing can be put into the kitchen before 4pm.

Sue is to enquire if we can have a licence to sell wine although it is feared that the allocation has been used up.

The scores have been ordered already.

Ticket prices: flat rate £10. Organ accompaniment. MS to check who will play the organ.

MS/SC

c) July concert – no more information. Our rehearsals begin on 31st March.

10. Website & Social Media

All are up to date.

11. Rehearsal Venue

Methodist churches in the area will merge and some may close. More news later.

12. Fund Raising

Frank is to split the different aspects of fundraising between himself, David S and Alison J.

In our next (planning) meeting we will set a budget for our forthcoming concerts so that applications for grants can be properly targeted.

We will produce a monthly thermometer of the amounts which each of our fundraising activities produces: raffle, refreshments, cakes, book sales and quiz night.

Our music library is to be stock-checked and copies advertised on our website and other websites where choral music is for hire. MS to speak to Stephen D about it.

Alison J is to do a separate raffle on Nov 12th to defray the costs of van hire for collecting and returning the harmonium.

FB/MS

13. Social Events

Choir to be reminded to give in their money for the dinner on 11th January, 2020, £20 pp.

Quiz night in St Mary's church hall 8th February.

14. Making Music, Charities & Correspondence

Making Music insurance is due to be renewed at the end of December.

A letter has been received from Mary Garrett, one of our Vice-Presidents, as a result of the letter which we sent to them all and to our two life members. She wrote most positively about our letter and our bookmarks and enclosed a cheque for £20 to help us to promote the choir.

MS has written to Vincent Thorpe to thank him for page turning for Andrew on Nov 2nd.

15. AOB

1. Pat has asked Jayne Bunn to see if our equipment will be covered by the church's insurance while they have been affected by the floods. Our own insurance is gold level.

2. Amazon Smile. Sue has attempted to register SCS on their site as has Pat. It is confused! Pat is to sort it out next week.

PA

3. Calendar: our Easter break is on the Tuesday after Easter Monday. Saturday rehearsals are to be discussed with Stephen but following our November concert the general feeling was that they may well be not needed.

MS

4. When we are back in the schoolroom, members are to be asked to help with setting out the chairs

MS

5. Concert etiquette: choir to be reminded not to turn pages while the soloists are singing.

MS

6. MS to ask the choir to think about being our new secretary next September

MS

16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd December, Planning Meeting