

Sandbach Choral Society
Minutes
Committee meeting 19/03/19

1 -Present

Joyce Watson, Julie Barker, Frank Barker, Pat Arnold, Sue Cooke, Ena Furber, Margaret Smith, Chris Cromar, Sandy Boyle

2- Apologies

None

3 – Minutes of meeting 15/01/19

Agreed and signed

4 – Matters arising

None

5 – Items for AOB

- a – Job descriptions
- b- Setting up and clearing up
- c- Damage to members' cars at Coppenhall
- d- Sandbach town meeting

6 – Website and social media

The website now includes all rehearsal dates and a list of works previously performed. Further possible developments to the members' area were discussed. Job descriptions to be added and photographs of past and present choir activities. **AGREED** committee meeting minutes will be added to the website and also a copy to be available in a folder at each rehearsal. **SC**
Bob Chilcott has retweeted messages from our twitter account.
Nothing further on Facebook

7 – Fundraising

a Application made to Sandbach Town Council for £800 to support singing Day. It will be considered at meeting in mid May

b Application for £4000 from Cheshire East for November concert has been started. It would need to include any increase in estimated costs. Additional information is also required including estimated income from ticket sales, other financial support being sought, input from own resources, other donations etc. Frank to complete as soon as possible so that application can be considered at June council meeting. If a grant is not obtained, total cost of the concert will be met from SCS funds. Chris confirmed that £4000 will cover cost of the orchestra. He will supply other estimated before end of May. **CC.**

It is hoped that the November concert with Handel Coronation Anthems and orchestra will attract a good audience.

David Silverwood has talked to 5 businesses in Alsager but no offers of support received. He will also speak to Waitrose about their community funding Scheme. Timing of cycle for Waitrose green token scheme is unclear. **AGREED DS** to be asked to act as an assistant to Frank. **MS**

Some banks have schemes to support community events and organisations. **Margaret** to ask any members have information or contacts for these. **MS**

8 – Social Events

- a Licensed raffle - postponed

b Quiz Night

Successful event both socially and financially. Likely to use Top Of The Hill fish and chip shop for future events. One person from each table to collect money, pay and collect fish and chips for their table.

c Garden party Sun 7th July 152 Colleys Lane, Willaston, 2pm – 6pm

MS

9 – Treasurer's report

We have £17500 in the accounts at present. Subs continue to trickle in.

10 – Guest Singers/ 'Stiffeners'

Some members of other choirs will come to help us at concerts for free if needed. We also sometimes have to pay for additional help. Society members need to know well in advance that guest singers will be present.

MS

Chris reported that we will need two additional men for the April concert. Adrian Jeakins, who can sing either tenor or bass as required will be present & free of charge.. An additional male to sing in chorus and take small solo parts will also attend at a cost of £150. John Yate and Roger Hunt will also be asked to do small solo parts. Organist (name to be confirmed) fee £250.

CC

Following a discussion it was agreed that “stiffeners” should be employed if necessary. Charlotte Richardson and Laurence Elson-Panter will be soloists at a cost of £250 each. Choir members to inform Sue in good time if not singing in the concert. **This is particularly important if they find themselves unable to attend the concert between the final Tuesday rehearsal and performance day.** AGREED – information about additional singers and notification of non-attendance of concerts to be given in announcements. Concert updates inc publicity.

MS

a April 2019

Margaret Snowden will meet us at the church at 1pm on 13th. Organ will be unlocked and ready to use. Frank and Julie will take the podium and music stands to the venue on Fri evening and set up. Licence is obtained, refreshments and front of house helpers organised. Voice reps to collect £1 from each society member for purchase of raffle prizes. **Margaret to announce in notices.** VIPs. Mayor of Cheshire East, Mayor of Alsager and Fiona Bruce MP have confirmed attendance. Mayor of Sandbach and Elsie Alcock have been invited.

Layout

Most of the choir will be at floor level in 4 rows of about 16 per row in a well spaced semicircle to allow sight lines to Chris. Small aisles for access, front to back. Block of men in the centre, tenors in front, basses behind. Low rise podium behind men for women.

Chris to send Sue email contact details for soloists.

CC

Joyce reported that publicity was in hand. Two banners are available, one for front of church and one for railings. Local council have yet to do a site inspection to confirm that a banner on railings will be permitted. Posters have been distributed to choir members. Fewer shops in Sandbach seem willing to take posters. Ads have been placed on Facebook and Twitter.

Joyce will be in charge of tickets.

JW

All words for the works to be printed in programme. Ad for singing day + booking form will be included with programme.

MS

b June 2019

Number of chairs available at St Mary's to be checked. 60 chairs for choir will need to stay in place during picnic interval. Choir members may need to bring folding chairs so that they can sit with guests. Five soloists will be needed for the concert. **Chris** to follow up.

CC

c Singing day - Sat 31st Aug 2019

Booking form to be edited and bookings will open at the beginning of May. Choir members should

sign up before summer term ends.

Sandbach High school will need to be paid for use of venue before end of summer term.

Margaret to speak to Di and Stephen about ordering scores.

MS

d November 2019

Town Hall booked for 02/11/19

e December 2019

Hall booking confirmed

f March 2020

Nothing to report

g July 2020

Bridgewater Hall concert

Sat Nov 16 2019

Congleton Choral Society will be performing Verdi Requiem and would be pleased to have Sandbach members join in. They would need to commit to 75% or rehearsals (Monday evening) and pay £40 to join society, **Margaret to announce.**

MS

12 – Making Music and Correspondence

Acceptances for concert received from Mayor of Cheshire East and Mayor of Alsager

13 – AOB

a Job descriptions

Now completed and approved and will be put on website. Voice rep job description will be put on website when approved. **Frank** will speak to voice reps about their responsibilities at concerts. **FB**

b Setting up and clearing up

More help needed at the start of rehearsals. **Margaret** to remind members to put their own chairs away at the end of rehearsal. Sopranos need to move forward so that members can access the signing in table more easily.

MS

c Damage to members' cars on Ford Lane, Coppenhall

There was damage to some cars, including the theft of a car badge, during the concert at Coppenhall. This venue will not be used again but not because of these events.

d Sandbach Town meeting 21/03/19

Margaret has been asked to make a presentation at the meeting. An outline of the presentation was given. It includes information about our change of name, rehearsals, conductor, past and future music performed, funding, membership etc. Will also mention limitations of performance venues in Sandbach. A display will also be set up. Sue will attend.

MS, SC, PA

The meeting ended at 4.45. Next meeting Tues May 7th 2019 2pm, 8 Well Bank, Sandbach