

Sandbach Choral Society
Committee meeting
25/06/19

1- Present

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

2- Apologies

Chris Cromar

3 – Minutes of meeting 07/05/19

Accepted and signed.

4 – Matters arising

none

5- Items for AOB

- a) 75%rule
- b) updating register
- c) leaving gift for Chris
- d) catering for soloists and MD at summer concerts
- e) fees for new MD

6 – Treasurer's report

Grant of £400 towards cost of Singing Day received from Sandbach Town Council.

Funds in a healthy condition so subs to remain at £140 a year or £12 monthly by standing order.

£140 is the annual fee. If members who have opted to pay monthly leave in the middle of the year, the standing order should remain in place until the end of the year. to be made clear in new members' pack

MS

7 – MD for next season

5 applications were received plus one received too late to be included in the interview process. 2 applicants withdrew before interview, one withdrew after the interview, remaining 2 auditions after interview. One of these was discounted because of errors in preparation, not reading instructions correctly. The final applicant seemed likely but conditions could not be agreed and candidate's decision to withdraw was accepted.

The late applicant has been contacted, who remains interested in the post. As he is to be a soloist at the summer concert it will be possible to have a discussion with him then and possibly offer an audition on Tues July 2nd when members are returning scores and if enough members would be prepared to stay for 30 mins. He will need to be informed that the concert has reduced numbers, the post is advertised as a choir of about 70 while only about 50 members will be singing in the concert. Emergency plans – If an MD is not appointed by September, Andrew has agreed to conduct the November concert, music to be decided, and Julie has undertaken the assembling of the Christmas concert. Heartfelt thanks to them both. The post will be re-advertised during the autumn term to start in January.

Margaret will update members at the rehearsal this evening

MS

8 – Concert updates

- a) June 30th

Biographies of soloists received, programme has been prepared and will be printed on Thursday.

Garlands of red and white roses purchased

Signs for doors ready. Door from The Cobbles to be used. Door by church will remain locked. Sue will open up at 1pm and would like help setting up tables and keyboard. Margaret to ask members to help clear up. MS

Julie and Frank will bring mike and amp

4 VIPs have replied, 2 from Cheshire East and 2 from Sandbach Town Council. Replies awaited from 2 others

Margaret will bring food (M&S sandwich order) juice and water for MD and soloists

All receipts to be given to Pat.

Afternoon rehearsal time to be confirmed by Chris. Margaret will email choir members MS

b) Come and Sing Day Aug 31st

55 tickets sold, larger number than this time last year. Margaret to remind members to return application forms asap. Cost £10. Also, members to be asked to make cakes. MS

Scores have been ordered. Chris to be asked to confirm soloists. Availability of Andrew to be checked. MS

No further concert updates are possible now because of uncertainty about MD post. At present we are still expecting to join in performance of Dream of Gerontius next summer.

9- AGM preparation 03/09/19 6pm for 6.30 start

Present committee members have agreed to stay in post and Stephen Davies has offered to take over as Librarian when Di McBride retires at the end of the season.

Sue Cooke made clear that she would stand down as secretary at the end of next season, Aug 2020.

This led to a discussion of the size of the current secretarial role. Decision to create new role of social secretary to organise singing day, quiz night, annual dinner etc and secretary who would deal with correspondence, room bookings and contracts and keep the society's records. The current membership secretary role would be expanded to include registrar duties, helped by the voice reps. New job descriptions to be written for AGM documentation.

It would be helpful if a member might be willing to shadow Sue from Sept '19 with a view to taking over the secretary post in Sept 20. MS

A more detailed job description for assistant MD to be produced. Julie Barker is happy to continue in this role.

Margaret to ask Chris to produce MD report. Pat to produce Treasurer's report. MS/PA

Room booked from 6pm

10 – Fund raising

£400 received from Sandbach Town Council.

Application to Cheshire East will not now go ahead as the November concert will not go ahead as planned. There will be a concert in November with music yet to be decided. It may be possible to apply for a Waitrose grant in 6 months' time.

11 – Social Events

Garden Party at 152 Colleys Lane, Willaston Sun July 7th. 2pm to 6pm. Bring a chair and a picnic.

12 – Sandbach Today 21/09/19

Decision taken not to attend this year. We will not be able to advertise future concerts until an MD is appointed.

13 – Making Music, charities and Correspondence.

Letter received from Di McBride resigning as Librarian

Mayor of Cheshire East and Mayoress, Barry Burkhill and Sue Bidwell, Mayor of Sandbach (Michael Muldoon) and consort have accepted invitation to Summer concert.

Fiona Bruce MP unable to attend.

14 – AOB

- a) 75% rule. Julie felt that the rule was having a detrimental effect and was not being applied consistently. Agreed to suspend rule and to discuss it with new MD
- b) Update of register. Members to be asked to confirm that contact details currently held are correct.
Request to go out with subs reminder from Pat **PA**
Margaret will send out a newsletter to include information re annual fees **MS**
- c) Leaving gift for Chris. Card for signing and envelope for contributions will be available at the rehearsal tonight. Amazon Voucher to be presented at Singing Day.
- d) Catering for soloists and MD at concert. See concert updates.

15 – Date of next meeting

Meeting needed before singing day and start of next season. Agreed to offer several dates and times which might be suitable for any new MD appointed. Wed Aug 21st any time from 2pm, Thurs Aug 22nd from 7pm, Fri Aug 23rd from 2pm. Margaret to confirm next week.