

Sandbach Choral Society

Minutes of Committee Meeting – 7th January 2020

1. Present

Margaret Smith, Sue Cooke, Pat Arnold, Ena Furber, Karen Dryland-Wainwright

2. Apologies

Sandy Boyle, Stephen Newlove, Andrew Green, Joyce Watson, Julie and Frank Barker

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

Accepted as true and accurate records of both meetings.

4. Matters arising from 08/10/19

Following the planning meeting Sue has booked 8th November 2020 and 13th December 2020 in Sandbach T Hall, an email has been sent to repeat our request for 27th March, 2021 because at St Mary's, Alsager, there has been a change in personnel and they have asked Sue to resubmit our request and the archery club uses St Mary's church hall in Sandbach on a Saturday afternoon and it was decided to move this date to the Sunday, 27th June for our picnic concert. **SC**

Dates for 2021 – Sue is to enquire of STH if we can book Sunday 7th November instead of our first choice of 13th November in order to avoid Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. Saturdays cost approx. £900 whereas Saturdays cost us £337 in 2019.

Wed 15th December is available in STH. If Stephen Newlove is unavailable for that date, our deposit can be transferred to an alternative date – the deposit is 50% of the total charge. **SC**

2nd April and 25th June, no venue has been chosen yet.

5. Items under AOB

1. Risk assessment
2. Secretary
3. Bases for March 2020.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Pat reported that advance ticket sales went well, it was easier on the door downstairs and in future those who already have their tickets are to be sent straight upstairs and the stubs will be dealt with there. Mark Thomas would like assistance on the door downstairs for security reasons.

Tickets for our next concert will all cost £10 and so it was decided to give a prize to the choir member who sells the most tickets as an incentive. Choir to be told now. **MS**

7. Review Christmas Concert

This concert went very well and a number of highly positive and encouraging comments were made.

It was felt that we should ask Stephen N to interact with the audience more, especially when they are expected to join in, i.e. in the audience carols as there was not a great deal of participation.

Comments were made about the weight of the folder but equally the committee commented that Messiah scores did not need to be in the folders. This is more a problem for individuals rather than for everybody.

The choir is to be made aware of how distracting it is when they shuffle papers and hunt through their papers for the next piece. They are to be told to have everything in order **before** the concert. **MS**

8. Concert updates a) March 20 b) July 20

a) Stephen N and Benjamin Newlove have been to look at the organ and we will decide whether to hire an organ when we hear what they think about it. Ben's fee is to be £250 inc. expenses. Stephen asked for a small fee for William Mace to play the cello in Pie Jesu. It was decided to pay him £100.

Sue has applied for a licence to sell wine.

Rehearsal files have been sent out to the choir.

Frank is to be asked to be men's voice rep in Roger's absence and as he does the stage managing it seems sensible.

The Mayors of Cheshire East and of Sandbach will attend in March.

Possible new member tonight, John Vernon.

b) July concert list of singers to be re-issued. Coaches will be booked later in the season.

9. Website & Social Media

All are up to date with our poster for our next concert and with the calendar for the coming season.

10. Fund Raising

In Frank's absence we do not know how we fared in the Waitrose green token collection.

We had been approached by The Old Hall in Sandbach to see if we would like /be able to sing carols there. This is one of a number of requests which the choir receives during the year and the choir is to be asked if a number of members would be prepared to do such things, including weddings Waitrose, at the Christmas Market, etc, or would like to do so. **MS**

We are to investigate the purchase of an A2 Frame advert holder which we would put outside our concert venues to advertise that we will be there that night. **MS**

11. Recruitment

David and Delia are to put an article out to advertise for new members. MS is to ask Gill Tucker if her friend was able to take a suitable photo for this purpose. **MS**

Jayne is to be asked if we can resume our cake sales and when the floor will be ready. We are losing income at this time.

Stephen N is to be asked if he would agree to an open rehearsal to encourage non members to give us a try out. **MS**

12. Social Events

Dinner on 11th January, 2020.

Quiz night in St Mary's church hall 8th February. Advertising is needed: £9.00 per person inc. fish and chip supper.

Summer social picnic at 152 Colleys Lane on Sunday 16th August, 2pm – 6pm. **MS**

13. Making Music, Charities & Correspondence

Making Music insurance has been renewed at the end of December.

A Christmas card was received from the Mayor of Sandbach T Council.

14. AOB

1. Sue has completed a risk assessment form for STH which needs only to be updated for each concert. Jane Peach enquired about provision for our three elderly and therefore vulnerable choir members in the event of a fire. Sue is to ask the T Hall what provision **they** make should such a situation arise. **SC**

2. One person has approached MS about the secretary's post but would be unable to make Tuesday afternoons. It was agreed that they could either be on a different day or even in a morning.

3. Sue is to ask SN if he would agree to her approaching two basses in Nantwich CS who know the Duruflé and might be prepared to help out. She will also ask SN what he would feel about their joining us for the Gerontius. If all agreed then the two would be asked to pay a guest singer fee of £40.

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd March, 2pm., 152 Colleys Lane.

Meeting closed at 16.20pm.