

# MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

## Minutes of the General Committee Meeting

14th July 2021 @ 7:30pm via Zoom (On-line)

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman at 7:30pm.

1. **Present:** John Robinson (Vice Chairman), Bob Jenner (Treasurer), Graham Waters (Secretary), Robert Owens (Director of Music), Bryan Peak (T2 Rep), Mike Batson (B1 Rep), Keith Jones, Neil McArthur.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Harry Newton (Chairman), David Collins (T1 Rep.), John Powell (B2 Rep.)
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Proposed as a correct record by Bryan Peak, seconded by Bob Jenner and approved by all present.
4. **Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting:**  
AGM – The decision regarding when to hold the next AGM will be reviewed once the Choir’s ability to get together has been confirmed.
5. **Financial update from the Treasurer:** The Treasurer reported that the current balance was £13,633. This amount includes £8300 ring-fenced for Uniforms.  
Our operating balance includes subs for an assumed membership of 23. Therefore, the End of Year Reserve including subs but excluding Concert Earnings is estimated at £1300.  
The Treasurer confirmed that this figure is acceptable if our current estimate of Concert Earnings is factored in.  
Neil McArthur raised the matter of sending out the proposed letter to Patrons, Supporters, etc.  
Bob Jenner recommended it should include a request for Donations. Neil McArthur recommended an email be sent to all re Gift Aid. He then agreed to re-work the letter for the Committee to approve.  
The Secretary will provide the Treasurer with an email list.
6. **Strategy Group Report – Keith Jones:**  
Keith Jones submitted the following report.  
Strategy Committee Update 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021
  - a) *Future Strategy*  
*Work continues on trying to forge a new relationship with the local administration. Contact is now being made with Cheshire East with regards to the use of the Town Hall. The meeting with the mayor has taken place and was productive as we have been invited to sing at the civic service on the 10<sup>th</sup> October.*
  - b) *Communication Process*  
*The group continues to publicise up-coming event via email and social media. We are also using our communication stream to try to get new members.*
  - c) *Recruitment*  
*The main drive in the area of recruitment has to be our open singing day and plans are well advanced for the event. Work continues via Laurie Kennard and Dai Jones to spread the word on our open singing day and the need for new recruits.*
  - d) *IT/Website*  
*The website is working well, and a lot of interest has been registered for the “Welcome Back Concert”*
  - e) *Work continues on the new sound cloud system.*
  - f) *Uncertainties*  
*The group has discussed the uncertainties facing the choir post July 19<sup>th</sup>, which is the day all restrictions are to be lifted. Following this date, we are recommending a more cautious approach regarding the running of rehearsals and concerts. We believe the prudent approach would be leave some controls in place for the time being. This could include the use of face masks and social distancing.*

Keith then raised a question from Laurie Kennard re our Communication Process. Laurie recommends that our communications to the public about forthcoming events and rehearsals include information re the use of Masks, Social Distancing, etc.

John Robinson confirmed he had spoken to the church but was waiting for their response.

Robert Owens then advised that, having discussed this matter with Mike Devaney, it was not necessary for us to provide masks or check temperatures of our audience. We should make it clear in our advertising that we will ensure that all the venue protocols are met, for example spacing of chairs, but our audience must 'self-police', i.e., not attend if they have a cough or feel under the weather, and that we reserve the right to challenge and refuse entry.

**7. Events:**

The question of staging for the Welcome Back concert will be discussed with Tony Williams. Piano tuning will be checked.

Llandudno - Due to lack of support the concert has been cancelled. The Secretary was asked to inform the Membership.

Cornwall 2022 – it was felt that we could not fully prepare for this event in the time scale and that we should cancel our participation but consider 2023. The Secretary will write to the organisers. The Treasurer will contact members re their deposits, offering to refund or roll-over.

Mayor's Civic Service – Keith Jones was asked to confirm we will participate and ask if our expenses could be covered.

**8. Section Representatives' Reports:**

**T1** – A return to rehearsing at BX would meet with everyone's approval,

**T2** – some members asked whether we should stay at Morton Hall because of easy parking. It was felt that Broken Cross was a better rehearsal venue, having the back room and most importantly our extensive Library and equipment could not easily be accommodated at Morton Hall, nor be as secure.

**B1** – Nothing to report.

**B2** – Nothing to report.

**9. AOB:**

a) RJ: Maintaining Support – this was covered in 5 above.

b) RJ: Uniform Project Update.

i) A call for sizes has gone out to all members but response has not been 100% yet. The Uniform sub-committee will chase this up.

ii) Slaters are not co-operating and therefore we are now engaging with another supplier who are offering a 'sale-or-return' service and will hold our money on account. This is generally felt to be a better solution.

iii) Robert and Tatyana are to be included in the Uniform budget.

**Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August – prior to rehearsal at 6:00pm

**Close:** The Vice-Chairman thanked all attendees and adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm