

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 7th February 2023 at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT Mr Keith Jones Mr Paul Nadin Mr Tim Neale Mr Shane Owens
Mr Bryan Peak Mr John Powell (Chair) Mr John Robinson

1 **Welcome** – JP welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those recently elected.

2 **Apologies** Mr David Coggan Mr Graham Jones Mr Neil McArthur Mr Robert Owens

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 17th January were agreed and signed.

4 Matters arising

➤ **Dragon's Den** – NM and JP have started an outline of a proposal and are also researching other organisations that we may approach for grants. **Action: NM/JP**

➤ **Skills survey** – As agreed at the last meeting, the survey has been reissued but again with minimal response. It was suggested and agreed that Section Reps would take individual soundings from their members instead. One idea to engage more members in the day-to-day running of the choir is for a specific section collectively to manage an individual concert. JP will arrange a briefing of Reps before a rehearsal to take ideas further. **Action: JP & Reps**

5 Financial Update

PN advised that he is discussing the handover from Bob which is progressing well. There is c. £8,500 currently in the bank including ring-fenced funds. He presented an outline budget to September which showed estimated income of £12,300 and expenditure £7,580. By then all subscription payments should have been received. There is still a need to take positive action re sponsorship and donations. SO will explore sponsorship possibilities. JP wondered if there is scope for a ladies group to undertake any such activities. We should also include suitable wording re donations and patrons in concert programmes.

Action: SO

Thanks were expressed to Bob for the work undertaken as treasurer over recent years and for his help with the handover.

The committee agreed that the bank mandate should be amended for any two of JP, JR, PN and BP to sign.

6 Events

6.1 Clayton Manor

All in hand for this event to take place on Monday 13th February at 6:30.

6.2 RNCM

This is not progressing as there are insufficient members available to form a balanced choir.

6.3 Chapel Ladies Choir

RO is liaising with their MD re the concert programme.

Action: RO

6.4 The Bridges

Confirmed for 17th April; time tba.

Action: RO

6.5 Cheshire A Cappella

KJ is in contact with their organiser. Booking for Wilmslow URC has been confirmed. RO will liaise re concert programme.

Action: RO & KJ

6.6 Llangollen

RO is waiting to hear about the resubmission of our entry.

Action: RO

6.7 Other Concerts and Venues

We are still waiting on confirmation of venue availability for the remaining concerts in the year.

6.8 Venues

There was agreement that we should seek venues other than those in and directly around Macclesfield. This has the advantage of potentially attracting new audiences whilst at the same time offering the ability to repeat concert content. It was suggested that we could for example join with other ladies choirs in the area, again meaning we would not necessarily need a full new programme. **Action: all to consider**

7 Section Representatives

T1 – TN felt that the section were generally buoyant and had no specific comments.

T2 – Nothing specific to report.

B1 – Nothing specific to report.

B2 – JP felt members were now more comfortable with timely advice of programmes. There is concern that recruitment needs to be given particular attention.

8 Appointments to be made

Musical Director – Robert Owens

Action: BP to prepare contract

Principal Accompanist – Anna Chiu

Action: BP to prepare contract

Librarians – John Robinson and John Webster

Fire Safety/Security Steward and First Aider – Shame Owens will take on both rôles.

Padré – agreed this rôle is better described as **Welfare Officer**. JR will ask a member to take this on.

Membership Secretary/Registrar – Geoff Molyneux

Uniform Secretary – Harry Newton

9 Any other business

9.1 Strategy review

JP wishes to begin with a four month project with 5/6 volunteers who would review the choir's objectives, then undertake some scenario planning, looking at the future options for the choir and what is needed to achieve each option. There will need to be a fit with the review that GW will carry out re recruitment.

Action: JP

9.2 Meeting timing

PN asked whether the start time for meetings could be brought forward to 7:00. This was agreed but will be reviewed if members find it difficult.

9.3 Members' list

TN suggested the production of a members' list – just names – with thumbnail photos to help members identify those they did not know. As this wouldn't breach GDPR, the committee agreed and TN said he would coordinate. BP will issue a request for members to send a suitable photo to TN.

Action: BP

10 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7th March at **7:00pm**.

Signed

John Powell.....7th March 2023