

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23rd SEPTEMBER 2014

Apologies had been received from Christine Birch, Meryl Finch and Liz Piggott.

1. **Minutes** from AGM 2013 had been approved and signed.
2. **Music Director's Report.** Paul Burke said that the Chairman's notes gave a general narrative. It had been nice to sing with the local children at the Christmas Concert – it is always tricky to rehearse separately and then to perform, but it had all gone well. The Britten in the RC church had sounded good – lovely acoustics in the church. The Verdi was different in scale and still sounded good despite the acoustics in the Town Hall. Choir deserves a pat on the back – the final Fugue was particularly spectacular. Paul felt the summer concert also went really well – even the tricky Chilcott. We will do more Copland in the future, not least because many choir members had bought the book!

The Rossini for Easter is a Mass, but not little or solemn. It will be fun to sing. Next summer we will be performing Bavarian songs and some Rutter, possibly in Marcham Church. It should be fun too.

3. **Officers' Report.** Robin had thanked all the committee and particularly Barbara for all her hard work with concert management and the new members. Special thanks to Denise Davies, our previous Chairman, for initiating the process to involve WCS in the Verdi Requiem last Easter.
Karen Wymbs, the church school music teacher, has moved on and has not yet been replaced.
The fund raising committee was thanked – the cream teas at Margaret Vivian's house had been very successful and thanks are due to Margaret for her generous loan of barn and garden.
Thanks to Paul for his hard work during the year. It is particularly difficult to prepare a choir for a piece and then hand over to another musical director, as with the Verdi.

John Price asked if we could perform another big work with a full orchestra, perhaps the Wantage Orchestra. There were a few other similar comments. **Robin will speak to Paul.** The Rossini only requires a piano (possibly also a harmonium). It was noted that last time WCS performed the Rossini, the choir also sang another short work. It was also felt the summer concert had been rather short. This was all noted and **will be passed onto Paul.**

4. **Treasurer's Report.** The accounts had been circulated. There is a tidy surplus. Subscriptions are up a little. The two main patrons are very generous and enable us to

continue. Gift Aid still has to be chased up (about £900 for each of the last two years) – John apologised, but he has been extremely busy. He explained what depreciation of music meant – music held but not enough to supply choir. It was decided a few years ago to write this off over 5 years. Basically an accounting exercise. Could try to sell to members (no previous interest). **John will draw up an inventory.**

5. **Election of President.** Bob Chilcott was nominated again by Robin Dunford, seconded by Mary Mills. Although it was noted he had not visited the choir, he is a good figurehead. His PA always acknowledges notifications of concerts from the WCS and hopefully one day he might have time to attend.

6. Election of Officers

Chairman – Robin Dunford proposed by Shirley Lawrence, seconded by Denise Davies

Treasurer – John Deaton proposed by Barbara Palmer, seconded by Anne Chambers

Secretary – Lucinda Risius proposed by Fiona Fulford, seconded by Gill Broadley

7. Election to Committee

Liz Piggott is standing down as membership secretary. Barbara Palmer (already on committee) would like to take over that role. Julia Kender has volunteered to take over from Barbara as concert organiser.

Julia Kender proposed by Barbara Palmer, seconded by Lucinda Risius

All other committee members agreed to stay on and were voted en bloc: Barbara Palmer, Iona Williamson, Geoff Williams, Pauline Herbert, Femke Maselkowski and Sue Hirst.

John Deaton would like to stand down as Treasurer at a suitable juncture. It was agreed that a successor would be sought – needs to be someone with some experience of finances.

8. **Subscriptions:** to remain at £100 for a year. £50 per term. Can be paid by bank transfer – bank details will be made available.
9. **100 Club** – always need new members – can pay by bank transfer.
10. **Making Music Rep.** Olive Price is happy to continue with this role – all online. Can buy and sell music by this route.
11. **AOB:** Chris O’Gorman said she had joined the choir having greatly enjoyed a music workshop run by previous MD. **Robin will ask Paul** if another workshop could be organised.

All music was returned after the summer concert. Making a note of score numbers and names takes a little time, but it is worthwhile to keep track of music, which is expensive to replace if lost.

Robin thanked everyone who stayed for the AGM

Lucinda Risius

Secretary, 24 September 2014

Signed **Chairman**

Date