

ELTHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT 21 MORDEN ROAD MEWS, BLACKHEATH.

Present: Fiona Gardiner (Chair), Terry Barcock, David Brining, Carole Homan, Martin North, Mary Nunns, Timothy Nunns, Sue Quirk, Maggie Watson.

Apologies had been received from John King,

Fiona welcomed Mary, Terry and Timothy upon their election to the Committee. Timothy expressed his appreciation for the welcome he and Mary had received upon joining E.C.S.

Election of Chair:

Fiona proposed Sue as Chair, which was unanimously agreed. Sue then proposed a Vote of Thanks to Fiona for her calm leadership, especially during the pandemic.

Election of Officers and allocation of Committee members' responsibilities:

Officers unanimously elected: -

Fiona: Vice Chair, Secretary and Charities Commission rep.,
Timothy: Treasurer.

Following discussion, members' responsibilities were agreed as: -

Andrew: Membership Secretary.
Carole: Concert manager (jointly with Sue).
David: Concert programme design; concert and general publicity.
Maggie: Assistant Treasurer.
Martin: Meetings Secretary and Making Music Rep.
Sue: Concert manager (jointly with Carole).
Terry: Librarian.

It was agreed to seek an Assistant Librarian from the wider choir membership.
The posts of Rehearsal Manager and Fundraising have yet to be allocated.

Minutes of the last meeting (05/09/2022), having been circulated, were taken as read and agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Maggie reported that our complaint to the Financial Ombudsman concerning Barclays has been acknowledged and should be dealt with within four months.

Finance:

Maggie's Report, Budget, Card-reader and *Making Music* briefing docs. having been circulated, were discussed and the following agreed or noted: -

- Membership presently stands at 71.
- Timothy has been added as signatory to the E.C.S. Bank account.
- Current reserves are £16,466.46 (of which £1,726 is the 'Special Fund', £124.47 cash).
- The 'Come & Sing' evening had made a surplus of £109; thanks to Carole and Sue
- It was agreed that the *Sumup 3G* + printer was the most suitable for use in ticket sales and possibly also for refreshment donations. Maggie and Timothy to liaise as to purchase. [ACTION: Sue & Timothy]
- It was agreed that the on-line *Making Music Platform* does not appear to offer any substantial benefits over our present website; although this could do with updating.
- It was agreed that as from January 2023 a nominal charge of £2 per member per term shall be made for the hire of music scores. Members will be at liberty to purchase their own, but E.C.S. will not purchase scores for onward sale to members.

Sue proposed a Vote of Thanks to Maggie for her presentation at the A.G.M. and her work as Treasurer.

Arrangements for Christmas:

- David has drafted the poster.
- *WeGotTickets* for ticket sales will be in use as from Friday. *TicketSource* is also being considered.
- Tickets will be priced at £12 and £6. It was agreed that we shall produce our own tickets, to save the cost of professional printing. [ACTION: Carole & Sue to produce tickets]
- Fiona has twice attempted to contact the Eltham Town Centre Manager as to carol singing at Passey Place without success. She will try to contact a member of Ferrier Operatic (who usually have the 'slot' prior to E.C.S.) as to whether they have received permission. [ACTION: Fiona to continue to pursue the acquisition of the necessary licenses]

If permission obtained, E.C.S. will collect for Demelza. In addition, other opportunities should be sought for E.C.S. to sing at other charitable events as a means of 'profile raising!'

Change of rehearsal venue:

Having regard to the views expressed at the A.G.M., and following discussion with reference to the letter dated 4th November from Thomas Bridges on behalf of Eltham United Reformed Church (U.R.C.); it was proposed by Sue from the Chair that with effect from January 2023 E.C.S. rehearsals shall take place at the U.R.C. It is understood that there is another piano in the U.R.C. with a better tone but which will need tuning.

At a vote, the proposal was carried 7 to 1 (with 1 abstention).

In the light of that decision, it was agreed that: -

- (i) Fiona shall sign the agreement with Eltham Park Methodist Church relating to the current term;
- (ii) Notice shall be given to E.P.M.C. who shall be informed of the hire rates being offered by the U.R.C.
- (iii) Sue shall be authorized to sign the agreement with Eltham U.R.C.

Future concerts:

Concern was raised at the projected cost of the Elijah concert at Easter 2023; Sue suggested postponing the Elijah to 2024, performing the Handel *Coronation Anthems* and will discuss this with Max. [ACTION: Sue] Martin reminded the Committee that the choral work commissioned from Esther Bersweden will hopefully be performed at Summer 2024 (with the Haydn *Nelson Mass*) and is likely to be expensive if performed at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich as is the intention.

Again, having regard to comments made at the A.G.M, it was agreed to have a 'Suggestion List' for members to propose works for performance.

It was also agreed that, where possible, future works to be performed shall be agreed well in advance.

Fundraising:

Various suggestions were made including raffles, cake sales, a '50-50' Club, after-rehearsal social events (with wine). It was agreed that Fundraising shall appear on each future Agenda. [ACTION: Martin]

Committee meal:

David agreed to organize this for Friday 27th January; Cote Brasserie in Blackheath or Luciano's Ristorante in Lee were suggested. [ACTION: David]

Other business:

Sue Mack has offered to host an E.C.S. Christmas Party at her home on 16th December; which was gratefully accepted.

Date of next meeting: 5th December 2022 (venue, or via Zoom, to be decided).

The meeting closed at 21.50.

M.L.N

S. Mack
28/11/22