

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE WAREHAM CHORAL SOCIETY HELD IN THE URC CHURCH AT 8.15PM ON MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2010

PRESENT: Mike Lewis (Chair), Jennifer Haworth (Treasurer), Joan Willis (Secretary), Jack Haworth, Richard Marchant, and 25 choir members

1. Welcome: Mike Lewis welcomed all to the AGM and thanked them for coming, although he was sad to see such a small attendance. ML sent the choir's wishes to Arthur on his return from hospital and welcomed Betty's return to the choir.
2. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mary Norrish, Bob Newnham, Gwen Kemp, Arthur Sealey, Carol Atkins, Christine Kemp, Maureen & Michael McCabe and Veronica Horton.
3. Minutes AGM – 13.10.09: Approved unanimously. Proposed that they should be adopted by David Kemp seconded by Lydia Farrow and signed.
4. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
5. To formally accept the reports of the Chairman, Treasurer and Musical Director. Printed copies of Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports were attached to the Minutes. ML thanked everyone, particularly those who worked so hard behind the scenes. Jack and Jennifer for their hospitality in allowing the use of their home for our Committee Meetings. ML, acting on AS's behalf (Andrew had left after taking rehearsal for the first half of the evening), reported AS's thanks to the Choir for their hard work and support during the last six years and expressed his sadness at having to retire. AS had stressed his concerns about the need to continue to search for new members and greater efforts to boost ticket sales for concerts and his hopes for their support of Jane Oakley who has been appointed on a trial basis, (on both sides), to take over as MD. Jane will put in a brief appearance on the 11th October and will take the choir through a few carols on the 18th October before taking up her appointment after Christmas when she will take us through Handel's Messiah (Prout Edition) for the Easter Concert.

There were questions from the floor regarding financing the professional fees of the new MD particularly as AS did not take any remuneration for what he has done. Bev is willing to continue as before, although he has yet to meet Jane.

Were accepted unanimously. Proposed that they should be adopted .

6. To formally accept the accounts for the year. Jennifer took the meeting through the accounts which were fully set out in her Report. There was discussion on increased costs leading to a possible shortfall in funds and the need for a recruitment drive was stressed which in turn would lead to an increased return in Gift Aid, which at the moment amounted to £350.

Proposed that the accounts and reports should be adopted by Jane Yard seconded by Val Bartlett. Unanimously accepted

7. To elect the following officers:-

Chairman - Mike Lewis
Treasurer – Jennifer Haworth
Secretary – Joan Willis

In the absence of any nominations, ML expressed his gratitude to the officers and committee members Richard Marchant, Jack Haworth, Bob Newnham (Bob has replaced John Astley as Librarian) and Jane Yard (ex officio) for agreeing to continue in office for a further term.

It was proposed by Jane Randall and seconded by Mary Briggs that the existing officers remain for a further term. Unanimously accepted.

It was proposed by David Kemp, seconded by Sarah Welton that the Committee Members remain for a further term. Unanimously accepted.

Mary Briggs expressed her thanks to the officers and committee for their continuing efforts.

AOB: Jane Oakley is prepared to liaise with the Guild for our bi-annual concert with them.

Jane Raimes said we should seriously consider the need to raise more money by fund raising schemes. ML reported that the committee had been working on this matter for several weeks and appealed to the meeting for new ideas. RM suggested we should dip into Jan Randall's expertise in this regard and suggested an extraordinary meeting be arranged for a brainstorming session. Nancy Baynes suggested that our subscriptions were well below the going rate. Another way of increasing recruitment would be the inclusion of more secular music into our repertoire, particularly as Jane Oakley has this experience. Business firms could also be approached for sponsorship.

It was confirmed that Jane Oakley's appointment was a mutual trial period.

The Committee had agreed that the subs at the moment would be £35 with a further £35 in the New Year. These figures will be up for review in 2011. Proposed by ML seconded by Peter Barker.

DGS AGM at Briantspuddle Village Hall on Wednesday 20th October 2010

8. ML again thanked all members for attending. There being no other business the Meeting closed at 9.00pm