

IPSWICH HOSPITAL COMMUNITY CHOIR - COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30pm Thursday 14th December 2017

MINUTES

Present	Role
Nick Coleman (NC)	Chair / Treasurer
Alex Howell (AH)	Choirmaster
Fiona Hamilton (FH)	Alto Representative
Phil Riches (PR)	Tenor Representative
Ian Floodgate (IF)	Bass Representative
Diane Ingledew (DI)	Secretary

NUMBER	ITEM	OWNER
1.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting (31st August 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were approved. • No matters arising. 	
2.	<p>IHCC Statistics (Membership/Attendance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance statistics - NC presented a document which showed attendance at both rehearsals and events. The statistics are very encouraging with most members exceeding the target of 75% attendance, a few slightly less and only a couple of members giving cause for concern. It was felt that these figures show a strong sense of commitment from the majority of choir members. • It was noted that both male sections would benefit from more members to achieve a better balance of sound and to ensure that minimum numbers can be reached easily for performances. 	NC
3.	<p>Finance Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statement of Income and Expenditure was presented and discussed. We are able to meet our running expenses and have some funds available for non-recurring expenses such as travel to a venue, or to consider purchasing sound equipment if needed. • It was agreed to maintain subscription fees at the same level as in the Autumn term. 	NC

4.	<p>Formal gigs and events – feedback</p> <p>Past events</p> <p>5/11 Anglesea Heights -This was enjoyed by both the choir and the residents. It was agreed that we would be happy to perform again at this venue, but try to avoid traditionally busy times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/12 Christmas Concert with Ipswich Hospital Band – This event was sold out. It was a very positive experience and it was felt that it was a genuine collaboration this time rather than the choir being invited to perform at the band concert. Some audience feedback suggested that some members of the choir needed to sit more considerately whilst the band were performing. AH will remind the choir about this and to pause after a number until the conductor relaxes. It was agreed that, for more formal events, it would be useful to have a specific seating plan decided in advance by the choirmaster. • 7/12 WI Rushmere- This was also a good event. We were given a warm welcome and the audience enjoyed the programme. Some WI members seemed very interested in joining us. They also gave us a generous charitable donation. • 9/12 Emma Dodd Christmas Party – There was a good turnout of choir members and NC was pleased with the standard of performance. This event produced mixed feelings from choir members with some people enjoying the experience but others feeling frustrated that the audience were not attentive and that the raffle took place part way through our performance. It was noted that we should be clear about the nature of each event, to manage expectations and avoid disappointment, as we knew in advance that we were to provide background music at the post performance party. <p>Future events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18/12 Hospital Volunteers’ Christmas Party – We are pleased to be invited back again. It is beneficial to be involved in hospital events to raise our profile. • 22/12 Ivan’s funeral- We have been invited to perform as a choir at the service. A selection of material was chosen from which Ivan’s daughter can choose. • 22/12 Carols on the Green – We will not be performing separately as a choir. The purpose is to boost the number of singers to perform carols. We need to check that song sheets will be available or if we need to make other arrangements. • 3/2 Booth Court- We have been invited to perform but more details are needed. 	<p>AH</p> <p>NC</p> <p>AH</p> <p>DI</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March/April –Prince George House. To be confirmed. • 1/6 – Fiona and Norman’s wedding – Enough choir members can attend so that we can perform at their wedding. Fiona and Norman will decide on the repertoire and inform the choirmaster. 	NC FH (+N)
5.	Social Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website –PR has continued to work on the new website and the database is set up. When the site is up and running, it is intended that other committee members will be able to update and upload material so that we are not over reliant on PR. PR is very busy with other projects as well as ours at the moment, so it has been agreed that the target date for testing of the site will be 31st March 2018. PR shared some statistics showing the data for our existing site. It is encouraging to note that new visitors are looking at the site. 	PR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter- It was decided that IF would take over responsibility for the IHCC Twitter feed. 	IF
6.	Informal dress code <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FH has continued to work with the supplier and we are nearly at the point where we can put in a first order. It was decided that the men would be offered a choice of a round necked T-shirt or a polo shirt, whilst the women would be offered a v- necked T-shirt or a polo shirt. The range will also include a hoodie and a fleece. • There will be a £20 initial charge for setting up the logo on the machine before the initial order. • It is intended to submit a bulk order, to start with, enabling all members to purchase their first item at the same time. This will be co-ordinated by each section rep. The payments for the first order will be managed via the choir bank account. After this, it is expected that members will be able to approach the suppliers individually for extra or replacement garments. • The intention is that, at every informal event, each member’s outer layer of clothing will be an item of clothing with the logo on it. • FH was thanked for all her work and time spent on this project. 	FH
		FH AV PR IF
7.	Photographs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is hoped that there may be some photographs that were taken at St Peter’s that could be included on our website as action shots from performances which are superior to posed ones. If we want to include more formal photos from rehearsals, we will approach AV’s father so that PH can be included in the shots. 	

8.	<p>Section Rep Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sopranos The sopranos are happy with no known issues to report. (Rep sent apologies). Specific feedback from a couple of members to DI stated that they are happy with the new arrangements, enjoy singing more often which is enabled by splitting up to practise some pieces, and that AH's musicality is appreciated. • Altos (FH) – The altos are happy and particularly enjoyed the St Peter's concert. Some felt that they missed instructions from time to time in rehearsals. One member was not keen on the TV theme compilation that we will be learning in the Spring. Some members would like to suggest ideas for songs, including some more up to date ones. It is to be noted that some suggestions may not be suitable for choir arrangements. • Tenors (PR) – No specific feedback. It was mentioned that some songs that were not performance ready, but were nearly so, have been left incomplete due to the change of choirmaster. • Basses – (IF) Although the basses are low in number, the attendance is good. It is hoped that Neil Jackson might return at some point. The basses find that the arrangement of the chairs for rehearsal makes it difficult for them to hear the choirmaster and the other sections, so they would appreciate a different layout. They found the iPads a useful tool for learning new material. 	AH
9.	<p>Social events – feedback/attendance</p> <p>Past events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbeque PR held a barbeque at his house which was enjoyed by the choir members who attended. • SoundCure quiz – This was a successful event which raised significant funds for the charity. It was supported by choir members who purchased tables. <p>Future events –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas social – Space will be reserved for us at the Dove. Twenty six people have signed up to go. Karen (landlady) will be offering curry (chicken and vegetarian). PH will send out a reminder and ask for curry choices. • SoundCure Music event (Greshams 26th January)- It is hoped that choir members and friends will strongly support this charity's events which will benefit the dementia ward at the hospital. 	PR

10.	Any other business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quartets and ensembles – Following the success of the barber shop quartet at St Peter’s, a member has asked if other smaller groups could form. This idea will be put forward to the membership. It was noted however that it is important that this should not detract from the community spirit of the choir as a whole, and that we at all times must act in the best interests of the choir, not individual members. 	AH Reps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the chapel – The public often need to use the chapel as a place for reflection and prayer. Sections will be asked to be mindful of this if using the space as a rehearsal place. 	Reps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the musical knowledge of choir members – NC has stated that he would be happy to help members to understand musical scores and to be more confident reading music by providing some brief music theory tutorials. Reps are to see if this is something that the members would like to do. 	NC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring term subscriptions – The Spring term will run from 3rd January until 25th April (16 weeks). There will be no rehearsal in Easter week (4th April). NC will update the membership form and send it to PR to put on the website asap. The deadline for payment will be 10th January. 	NC PR
11	Meeting dates	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is to be at Nick’s house on 12th April at 7.30pm. • The AGM will take place on 25th April during the choir rehearsal. 	

The meeting ended at 11pm.