

THE STONDON SINGERS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25th APRIL 2017 AT 7.45 PM AT THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE, BLACKMORE

Present: Michelle Arthur (chairman), Annabel Malton, Marjolein Hillman, Matthew Butt, Christopher Tinker, David Schacht, Faith Marchal, David Lloyd, Julia Dimon, David Evans, Michael Aves, Jack Dixon, Chris Bradbury, Chris Overy, Audrey Cassidy, Julie Lorkins, Angela Sparke and Nick Alston.

Apologies: Phil Holmes, Mavis Holmes, Karen Mortley, Lindsey Wyman, Josephine Gordon, Katharine Adams, Kate Hanson., Mark Ellis and Joanne Webber.

Minutes of the AGM 26th April 2016

Printed copies were circulated. The minutes were adopted as a true record.

Proposed: Faith Marchal, seconded: Chris Overy. All choir members were in favour.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Trustees' Report

Printed copies were circulated.

Michelle Arthur made the following points:

It has been another busy year in which the Stondon Singers presented an interesting and varied programme. Audience numbers have been good but there is no room for complacency. Attendance at our most recent concert demonstrated the challenge of finding a large audience when there is no popular work to draw people in. Thanks, as ever, must go to Christopher for his collegiate approach to programme planning and his attention to detail in rehearsals and performance.

In the past year we have welcomed the following new members: Chris Bradbury, Angela and Lindsey.

David Hampson has retired but wishes to continue his connection as part of our Friends scheme.

We welcome back Julie Lorkins.

Committee members have been very busy on your behalf and extremely generous with their time and talents, which range from making editions of music and writing orchestral parts to designing programmes and making cakes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them and especially Marjolein who is our unsung hero. Matthew is standing down, having spent nearly half his life on the committee. Thank you Matthew for all that you have done in various roles and for your excellent advice. You will be greatly missed.

Matthew was presented with a bottle of wine.

Michelle continued: You will notice that we have devised simple policies for Health and Safety, Trustee Vetting, Data Protection and Safeguarding. This is in line with Charity Commission requirements and best practice. When we apply to visit cathedrals, for example, we are asked to complete safeguarding forms and it helps that we have our own policy. Although we are not specifically required to have a data protection policy, the recommendation from the Information Commissioner's Office is that it is advisable.

We are in the process of putting together a welcome pack for new members containing basic information about the choir. It is very rare that any choir member is ill or injured at a concert or rehearsal, but it makes sense for us to have someone we can telephone if this happens. It is also useful to know if anyone suffers from a condition which should be disclosed to the emergency services in the event of accident or illness. This is not a requirement of membership and any information would be treated confidentially except in an emergency. We would encourage all choir members to let the secretary have this information.

We are indebted to everyone who helps with the smooth running of concerts and rehearsals in any way. Thank you especially to Julia, who has been making tea and coffee for us all even with her arm in a sling, and to all those who help with setting up and clearing away after concerts and rehearsals.

We have some exciting performances to look forward to next season in which the Stondon Singers will celebrate its 50th Birthday, including a performance of the St John Passion with orchestra, a workshop and a

reprise of some of the works performed at the choir's first ever concert. Thank you all for your musicianship and continued commitment to the choir. As a thank you for your forbearance cake will be served.

Faith Marchal commented that the Trustees' Report and Policies all looked very professional.

Treasurer's Report

As Josephine Gordon was unable to attend the meeting, the Treasurer's Report will be dealt with on Tuesday 16th May.

The figures included in the Trustees' Report are correct.

Music Director's Report

Christopher Tinker gave his report and a copy was placed on record.

Election of Trustees to Hold Office until the AGM in 2018

The list of officers standing was included on the Agenda for the AGM.

Michelle Arthur
Josephine Gordon
Marjolein Hillman
Annabel Malton
David Schacht
Phil Holmes
Faith Marchal
Nick Alston

Chris Overy proposed to elect the nominees en bloc, seconded by Audrey Cassidy. All choir members were in favour.

There is a vacancy for another trustee.

Any Other Business

Nick Alston thanked Michelle Arthur for her leadership, adding that it was not an easy task.

Marjolein Hillman thanked Catherine Kelly for all her work producing the programme booklets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.04 pm until Tuesday 16th May 2017.