

**HENLEY CHORAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Thursday, 21st November
at d:two, Henley**

Attendance

1. Meg Ashby (MA), Felicity Bazell (FB), Paul Clayden (PC), Nick Cook (NC), Sue Edwards (SE) (Chair), Wendy Hawkins (WH), Melody Hermon (MH), Jane Hutton (JHut), Mark Turner (MT).

Absent: David Bentley (DB), Yolanda Goldthorpe (YG), Joanne Harris, Alfie Hay (AH), Jana Hutchins (JHu), Angela Law (AL), Dru Ross (DR), Judy Skeet (JS), Nick Tuggey (NT), Jenny Wager (JW), Arthur Weir (AW), Liz Ware (LW).

Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2019 were approved as a true and fair record

Matters arising from the minutes

3. *Voice reps update* (minute 5(i)): Numbers are currently: Sopranos 47, Altos, 33, Tenors 16, Basses 19.

4. *Administration update* (minute 8 (v)): no recruits had so far come from attendance and publicity at Henley Rugby Club. It was agreed to place the leaflets prepared for the HRC initiative should be placed on seats ant the evening concert on 7 December.

5. *Music and singing opportunities* (minute 9(ii)): It was agreed that the final item of the concert would not be an audience carol (as some had suggested). It was also agreed to print 500 copies of the programme..

Finance

6. MT reported that the current state of finances showed a total balance of £79,336.92. The fee for the organist at the Christmas concerts was not yet known. He forecast an overall surplus for the concert of around £4,500.

8. Henley Youth Choir: Fi Harding's report, which had been circulated by email.

Voice reps update

7. Nick Cook was welcomed as the new bass rep.

8. Numbers singing in the Christmas concerts:

Afternoon: sopranos 32, altos 18, tenors 12, basses 11.

Evening: sopranos 43, altos 24, tenors 13, basses 15.

9. *Henley Youth Choir*: Fi Harding's report, which had been circulated by email, was received. WH pointed out that the proposal to alter the length of rehearsal would increase the conductor's fee. It was agreed that the Trustees should discuss this point with Fi Harding..

10. It was noted that a replacement for Alfie Hay on the HYC committee was needed. It was suggested that parents might help in managing the projector at rehearsals.

Friends

11. In the absence of LW there was no report.

Marketing

12. MH reported on the publicity/marketing for the Christmas concerts. Davis Tate had promised a front page advertisement in the *Henley Standard*. Banners were being erected and the A boards have arrived. There was an advertisement in *Round and About*.

13. It was noted that AL was taking charge of the HCS twitter account.

14. Suggestions were made for more photos of the choir for publicity and possibly having umbrellas with the HCS logo for sale. MT agreed to follow this up.

15. Application to Radio 3 Shout Out was suggested.

Administration

16. *Website*: FB said the website needed updating, with details of how to join and contact details. The pictures also needed updating. Ideas of what to include on the website would be welcome.

17. *Nominated charity for Christmas concert*: It was agreed that the Samaritans would be the nominated charity for the evening concert. HYC had suggested Camp Mohawk for the afternoon concert but no information had been provided. SE and WH agreed to follow this up.

18. *Piano at d:two*: SE reported that a firm of farriers was going to quote to provide a substantial metal frame with strong castors to support the piano.

19. *Photos of choir members:* it was noted that Michael Kay was following up his proposal to ask choir members to provide photos of themselves as a means of identification to other choir members.

20. *HYC Trustee vacancy:* it was noted that there was a vacancy for a trustee of HYC. Parents had been approached without success.

Music and singing opportunities

21. *50th anniversary:* SE reported that Cecilia McDowell was keen to accept a commission from HCS. Discussions with the composer included that it would be a secular piece, possibly with a river theme and not too Henley based. It was agreed that the anniversary concert should be in St. Mary's, with the possibility of a performance at the Henley Festival.

22. *Christmas concerts:* It was agreed that men will wear DJs and, if desired, a festive bow tie. JHut said that key timings were being circulated to members. WH had lined up volunteers and ushers. WH said suggested that those who had recently applied for membership could be asked to act as ushers.

23. *Visit to Leichlingen:* SE reported that PA had been in touch with the Leichlingen director of music, suggesting a visit in 2021.

Other business

24. FB said she would ask PA for the 2020 concert schedules. There was an opportunity to obtain copies of scores on favourable terms if the details were known well in advance.

25. SE suggested that a workshop could be held on a Saturday in February

Next meeting

26. Thursday, 9th January 2020..