



Minutes of a mini Committee meeting held by Zoom on 13 August 2021

Attending: Tessa Cox (in the Chair); Ian Smith; Peter Snelling; Siân Rees; Jeremy Hopkinson; Carol Yirrell; Vanessa Skelton (Minutes Secretary)

Action

1 Apologies and welcome

- Tessa Cox welcomed the Committee. Julia was away but had sent Tessa apologies and notes on various matters on the agenda.

2. Minutes of meeting from 19 May 2021

It was agreed these would be dealt with at the scheduled meeting on 7 September.

3 Arrangements for face to face rehearsals from 8 September

It was agreed that we should start face-to-face rehearsals on 8 September, in Aspley Guise Village Hall, following the conditions laid down by the Hall Committee.

Peter would draft an email informing members of this, and telling them of the Hall requirements. To attend, members must provide evidence of double Covid-19 vaccination or of a negative Covid test result from a test taken within the 48 hours preceding an individual rehearsal. The email would explain that if proof of vaccination were provided it would not be required a second time. Members would be asked to send the proof of vaccination to **Vanessa**. Once she had seen the proof she would keep a record of having done so – the proof itself would be deleted. *[NB After the meeting it was agreed that Peter would receive the vaccination proofs and keep the records, rather than Vanessa.]*

Peter

Vanessa

Members would be asked to enter the Hall via the carpark door – **Carol** would monitor the door and would have the list of those who had already provided evidence of vaccination. She would require anyone else wishing to attend to show her evidence of vaccination, which she would mark on the list, or to show her proof of a negative test result. Anyone not providing evidence would, regrettably, not be permitted to enter.

Carol

Members would then be asked to pick up their music from **Julia** from the desk usually used for tickets sales, and to enter the main hall via the door adjacent to the front door. No hire fee would be levied – most members would have paid for their copies when the original rehearsals for this concert took place.

Julia

As this would take some time, a start time of 7.30 was agreed – **Ian**, who had a key, would arrive by 7.15 in good time to open up. **Siân** would check with Gill Cackle that the Hall would be vacant at 7.15.

Ian

Siân

The rehearsal would take place as normal, with the exception that the choir would face the stage as it was felt it would be easier to distance from neighbours both front, back and side with this lay out, and it would be a matter for individuals whether they wore a face mask or not. The silicone face mask inserts would be available for anyone who wanted them. Purchase of a carbon dioxide detector was considered, but it was decided this was not needed. Windows and door would be left open.

Ian said that he expected members' voices would tire after about 1½ hours. It was agreed there should be a break during the rehearsal, but refreshments would not be provided at this stage. Members could bring their own refreshments if they wished.

Ian

Siân volunteered to amend the risk assessment for posting on the web.

Siân

4 Future scheduled events

- 13th November 2021 – Vivaldi (Woburn booked)

Ian would make arrangements for the orchestral scores for the McDowall piece. He would also confirm soloists for the season.

Ian

Decisions were yet to be made about the audience layout. Peter had asked the church what their requirements were, but no reply had been received as yet. He would chase them, and the matter could be decided at the 7 September committee meeting

Peter

- December 2021 – ?Beds Fire & Rescue Christingle

Ian would contact Thomas Warner as to whether this would go ahead this year.

Ian

- December 2021 – ?Woburn lights switch on

No information as yet

- December 2021 - ?Weathercock carol singing
- 18th December 2021 – Christmas Concert (Woburn booked)
- April 2022 – Bernstein 'Chichester Psalms', Lauridsen 'Lux Aeterna', Rheinburger Requiem
- 2 July 2022 – M Haydn/FJ Haydn deferred from June 2021
- Dates for 22/23 season

Ian had suggested various dates that did not conflict with his other commitments.

Tessa

Tessa would contact Will Swann to check when the MK Chorale have scheduled their concerts for the 22/23 season so that we can avoid conflicts. Peter would contact the church to see which of Ian's suggestions were available (there might be a problem with their Christmas toybox col lection). Usually Carol Concerts took place in 'even' years, but as last year's had been missed one had already been planned for this year. A decision would be made as to whether the pattern should be changed for to Carol Concerts in 'odd' years at the 7 September meeting.

Peter

Tessa

5 Future Meeting dates

2021: 7 September; 6 October (AGM); 9 November. 2022: 11 January

6 AOB

- The position re the store would need to be sorted in the near future. This should go on the 7 September agenda.
- We need to retrieve the weddings music from Kate Atalay.
- Peter informed the committee that he had agreed that the Bedford Music Trust could borrow our lighting equipment.

Tessa

Tessa

- Peter had purchased the online ticket sales system as agreed previously. It was up and running, and although not advertised as yet, it had been used by someone to purchase tickets for the November concert.
- Since Sheila Edwards has stepped down from the post of Publicity Officer we actively need to recruit someone to take on this role to ensure that we meet the press deadlines to advertise our November 2021 concert. Tessa
- A recruitment drive would be necessary to bolster member numbers. Tessa would ask Jenny to put something on the website and Sarah to put something on Facebook. Siân would deal with the Twitter page. Tessa
Siân
- Peter reported that Helen Benton was not well – Carol would send a card from the Choir. Carol
- Peter asked Ian to let him have costs for the orchestra and soloists for the 2022 concerts. Ian
- Peter proposed that subs for the 21/22 season should remain at the 19/20 levels. He also proposed that the reduced joint membership fee should be abolished. This had been introduced when paper communications were used, and a saving on communication costs to partner members could be made.
- Ian reported that the choir of 6 who sang at Sarah and Jonny’s wedding had sung beautifully, and that the wedding had been lovely.