

NEW DIMENSION CHOIR

Minutes of AGM 28th February 2023

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Carmel Dines. Also present were committee members: Enid Weaver, Wendy White, John Pugh, Carol Chester, Clare Goldspink and Barbara Austin.

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Devlin, Joy Rasbash, Mary Bryan, Nick Butler, Beryl Barbour and Karena Mairs.

The Chairperson began by apologising for the postponement of the AGM the previous week, which had been unavoidable due to a police incident close the Family Centre where the choir meets. She also thanked Cheryl Sinnott for agreeing to minute the AGM this year.

Minutes of last year's AGM

These were confirmed, being proposed by Jackie Bloom and seconded by Sue Collier.

Election of officers to the committee for 2023

Carmel went on to confirm that the present committee members had all agreed to stay on for another year in their current roles and that each had been proposed and seconded by Cheryl Sinnott and Sue Collier.

Committee Members

Musical Director – Enid Weaver

Chairperson – Carmel Dines

Secretary – Barbara Austin

Librarian – Wendy White

Treasurer – Carol Chester

Non-elective member representatives:

Technical Officer – John Pugh

Publicity Officer – Clare Goldspink

The members then went on to hear the reports from various committee members:

Report from the Musical Director – Enid Weaver

Please see Appendix 1

Report from Librarian – Wendy White

Please see Appendix 2

Technical Report – John Pugh

Please see Appendix 3

Report from Treasurer – Carol Chester

Please see Appendix 4

Balance Sheet for 2022

Please see Appendix 5

Report from the Secretary – Barbara Austin

Barbara began by asking members to update their personal information via a form which she had distributed amongst the members that evening (**Please see Appendix 6**). The aim of this form is to make clear the preferred method of contact for each member in the event of a sudden cancellation of the choir rehearsal or concert. It further provides clarity on whether members agree to their personal details being shared with other members.

The same form asks everyone to make clear whether they give permission for extended use of their image. Images are currently accessible on the members' page of the choir website but this can only be seen by members themselves. However, permission is being sought for use of images in other arenas for publicity purposes. Members were asked to complete the information form or contact Barbara by email to opt in or out of this initiative.

Barbara also reported that three prospective new members had decided not to join the choir after all and so the committee were still looking to recruit new members.

A possible change to the start time of the upcoming concert at Havering Road Methodist Church was also mentioned, along with the proposed Easter closure date. It was decided that the choir will have a one week break on Tuesday 11th April.

Members Questions

1. Should we consider doing a matinee performance instead of one of our evening concerts to facilitate attendance by the elderly and by more children?

This was discussed with the membership. Some members queried whether we would get an audience in the afternoon, as the same idea had been tried previously with limited success. A vote was proposed and the motion was carried by a show of hands.

2. How can we attract more men to the choir? John had already produced some posters/flyers advertising the choir and encouraging anyone interested to attend. These can be distributed around local libraries and supermarkets and members were asked if there knew of any other mens' groups or clubs where we might be able to advertise the choir. It was asked whether we could include doctors' surgeries in this and it was suggested that for this purpose we might tweak the text on the poster to include something about the health benefits of singing and choir membership. John agreed to look at this possibility.

Any other business

- Social events – Carol was able to confirm that she is in the process of arranging a quiz night for July 15th, to be held at All Saints Church. The cost of a fish and chip supper was thought to be prohibitive but attendees would be free to bring their own drinks and snacks. Cheryl asked whether this was a fundraiser for the choir but Carol confirmed in the negative, saying that it was purely a social gathering.

Romford Golf Club has also been provisionally booked for the annual dinner/dance. The date would be 9th January 2024, and the committee wished to check with the membership if they were happy for this to go ahead.

Some members had previously commented that they found the Golf Club quite expensive and the committee expressed an openness to take other suggestions from the floor. Cheryl commented that prices were rising everywhere and that we should be realistic about what else we would be able to get for less money.

Someone asked if Top Meadow could be an alternative venue, but as it is on the outskirts of the area and not on a bus route (this has been requested previously by members) that it would not be a viable alternative.

Jeff mentioned that he had been very happy with the food on offer at the Golf Club and thought that both the size of the hall and the service provided were good. Pam wondered if there was the possibility of a different menu next year and Carol confirmed that there was, but the menu used previously was selected with a view to keeping the price down. A more extensive menu would inevitably push the cost higher.

- Social Media – Wendy raised the subject of the choir Facebook Page. She wished to explain to members the methods by which to get the most from the choir Facebook Page. Wendy indicated that the intention of the page is to advertise the choir, raise its profile and hopefully attract more people to its concerts, not to mention encouraging potential new members. Wendy clarified that the page is not for her use alone and it would be helpful if other members would post comments on there. Likewise she needs members to share the page with family and friends. When Wendy puts events on the page it would be useful if other members could “like” or share the events. It is not enough to just follow on Facebook, we need more posts and interactions.

Wendy has linked the page to other Facebook entities with a music interest. Wendy also posts choir events on Nextdoor and recently had 601 views for a particular item after only a couple of days. This could be a really effective way of attracting the interest of new members, especially younger members who may be more active on social media. If members could interact with the choir posts on Facebook or Nextdoor, and the posts of other groups we are linked to, it would help to promote the choir.

Wendy also mentioned that she would like to ascertain from members if they are in agreement for their images to be seen on social media. She has previously had to be very circumspect in what she posts in order to protect members’ privacy. No names or personal

details would be given, but some members may still object. Members should contact Barbara to confirm whether they are happy for their images to be used on social media.

The meeting was closed by the Chairperson.