



Minutes of Committee meeting 19th October 2023 at 84 Lake Road

Present: Geraldine Cutler (chair), Gwen Alwakeel, Margie Bushell, Marella Fison, Bill Jerrome, Mary Neave, Sarah Scott, Barbara Rusbridge (in attendance).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Gill Bowen, Richard Pedlar, Barbara Neville, Ken Thawley.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting** (7th July 2023)
Correction to item 8c. Thanks were given to the Librarian, not the Treasurer. Minutes were then approved.

3. Matters arising

8a. Margie had phoned Judy and Chris. Judy was reluctant to sit with Chris to support him as she needed time to herself. Subsequently they decided to leave the choir, which is a cause for regret. The talk by Tony Hall on dementia was interesting and well received, but did not wholly address the question of support for people with dementia within the choir. Some leaflets are available which give more detail on support available. Geraldine will bring them to the next rehearsal.

8b. The tea and coffee break arrangements are going well. Thanks to Margie for bringing the hot water and refreshments each week.

4. Officers' reports

Chairman

Chairman's report was previously circulated.

Geraldine reiterated her disappointment that nobody had been prepared to take on the role of the Secretary. She pointed out that members of the choir were ageing, and perhaps the time had come to reconsider performing formal concerts in view of the large amount of physical and admin work involved. We could instead invite family or friends to the final rehearsal in the Carey Room which holds a maximum of 70 people. Refreshments could be provided. The committee discussed the issues involved, and decided we should see how the concerts went in the coming year before deciding to put a proposal to the AGM.

Geraldine will circulate a list of tasks undertaken by the Secretary with names of those responsible. The committee is very grateful to Gwen for agreeing to continue as the named Secretary.

Secretary

Report previously circulated. There are currently 27 signed up choir members with two taking a term out. Gwen thanked all those who had agreed to take on some of the tasks in order to lighten the load.

Treasurer

All subscriptions have now been collected and major expenses paid. At present there is a surplus of £400. This may change towards the end of term, but we aim to cover our expenses for the Christmas concert and donate a reasonable sum to the chosen charity.

Social Secretary

- Margie has the task of welcoming new members. One new alto came along this week; the committee confirmed she was eligible for three rehearsals free of charge before having a voice test by Barbara to judge which voice part would suit her.
- Geraldine has reworked the advertisement for BS9 and Henleaze and Westbury Voice to include the choir email address. Margie presented a leaflet for the St Austell choir which might provide a template for ours. Barbara will be asked to come up with a design for a leaflet. Sarah suggested leafleting local houses to recruit new members.
- Date for the Christmas meal has been fixed but menu and pricing have not yet been received.
- We will not sing at Carfax Court this year.

Librarian

Geraldine is holding spare copies of music pending Gill's return from holiday.

Voice parts

Tenors: There are four tenors at present. Bill would like to know in advance which pieces we will be practising. Barbara R will produce a rehearsal schedule. No issues reported from other voice parts.

Musical Director

Barbara suggested we might review the start and finish times of our Monday rehearsals as people are quite tired by 9.30.pm.

Barbara confirmed dates for the Chilcott performance. Rehearsal Tuesday 19th March 6 – 7.30 pm. Sunday 24th March: Rehearsal 4 – 6 pm. Service to start at 6.30 pm.

5. Planning for Christmas concert

- It was decided that "Sing we now of Christmas" should be the name of the Christmas concert.
- Gwen had circulated an updated checklist on tasks for the concert.
- Members are being asked to propose a charity and a vote will be taken at the next rehearsal. Bill suggested an Alzheimer charity, and will email a proposal to Gwen.
- The pianist Chloe Martindale will be our accompanist at the concert and will attend the last rehearsal. She will be paid £200.
- It was decided we would donate £75 to the church as a goodwill gesture – an increase over last year's donation of £60.
- Sarah has spare folders and lights for new members.
- Barbara suggested adding to the Christmas concert programme by inviting an outside group. Within the choir Anthony plays the flute – Barbara will approach him about playing a piece. Chloe might also play a piano piece.
- With regard to readings Barbara would like to choose ones appropriate for the programme, but would welcome suggestions from members. She will make the final

decision.

- David Brown from Exultate will join the tenors for the concert.
- The task of making the punch for the interval will be shared out between the committee and coordinated with four people who are holding the thermos flasks.
- Requests for tickets will be sent to the choir email, which is read by Geraldine. The price of tickets will remain at £8. Payment will be by cheque or cash and this information will be included in the publicity.
- Marella suggested a raffle to help raise funds for the charity. Unfortunately we can't do this as the Baptist Church code of conduct prohibits gambling including raffles.
- Toasting the Tree will take place in the Village hall on Sunday 17th December. 7 pm for 7.30 rehearsal and 7.45 pm start.

6. Dates of next term

Monday 8th January to Monday 18th March inclusive with break for half term on 12 February.

7. Date and early planning of summer concert

Marella will look into booking the Village Hall on Thursday 11th or Friday 12th July.

8. Any other business

- Malcolm pays £10 a year for the website hosting of Westbury Singers and is happy to treat this as a donation to the choir. Malcolm was thanked for this gesture and for the work he does on the website.
- . Barbara suggested planning a choir photo in spring, or alternatively before a concert when we are in concert dress.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 30th November for planning meeting of Christmas concert for those on the task list only, namely Barbara, Geraldine, Gwen, Sarah, Margie and Ken.

GC/SS

19/10/2023