

# BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA COMMUNITY CHOIR

Notes of Meeting held on Friday 24 March 2023

Present: Paul Warren, Karen Hill, Debby Boland, Liz Owen

	Agenda Item	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence were received from Robin Fuller, Fiona Goodwill, Jeff Bray and Lyn Dive.	
2.	Minutes of last meeting were agreed as a true record.	
3.	<p>Reports/Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MD/Accompanist: Karen reported that she was struggling to find an Accompanist for the Village Fete in July, and we may have to use backing tracks.</li> </ul> <p>Possible songs for the Fete are Simple Melody/Come What May/Disney Melody and Janie Mama. Backing track would need to be purchased for the Disney Melody.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary: The Secretary had no matters to discuss.</li> <li>• Treasurer: All members were happy with the new subs rate. Committee members were happy to receive updates and audit from Jeff as and when required.</li> <li>• Membership/Kitchen Manager: We have just under 60 members in the Choir. Thank you to Lyn Dive who has taken over as Kitchen Manager and to date everything is running smoothly.</li> </ul> <p>Paul Warren noted that members have been enthusiastic in assisting with chair arrangements/storage and the 'tea rota' is working well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music Library: To date, Debby reported there were no problems.</li> <li>• Village Hall: Fiona Goodwill had represented the Choir at the recent Village Hall Committee, and reported the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The roof of the hall has been completed and is well insulated.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Most of the electricity used to power the hall including the new heaters will be generated by the newly installed solar panels. The heaters are timed to come on and if we ever have an issue regarding the temperature we should report it to the Chairman of the VHC who pointed out that there may be the odd teething problem.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Work will soon be carried out on the loos, but they will remain operational throughout.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>If we need to use the wifi, we should find it 10 times more efficient apparently since the contract has been moved to SKY.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Around Easter time a new wall will be installed in the meeting room as part of the refurbishments. This will create a new corridor from the</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



	<p><i>meeting room entrance through into the main hall. Whilst the main entrance will remain, a café will be installed in that area which may cause congestion! At this point the committee appear to have no idea how the café will work or the hours it will be open. In the probably more unlikely event that it's open during choir practice, it would be better for us to enter through the original meeting room door.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman: Paul Warren will be meeting with the Music Department at Cornwallis School, on Tuesday 28 March, to discuss a soloist for our Concert.</li> </ul>	PW
5.	<p>Preparation for AGM – Monday 19 or 26 June 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Robin's email to Liz of 22 March – <i>Robin did not consider that the postponement of the AGM from 24 April was necessary.</i> This was discussed and it was agreed that the postponement was appropriate given the pressure on rehearsal time until the concert. This had also been communicated to the whole choir and no objections were received. It was agreed that, as this is the first AGM, there was no precedent as to its date so the AGM was confirmed as 26 June (that is after the concert date) and, considering that our concerts re likely to be early/mid June in future, the AGM would be accommodated as a time where there was less pressure on rehearsals.</li> <li>Robin had written the Constitution for BMCC. After discussion it was agreed that we would 'cut' the quorum to 4 people. It was also agreed that we would have 3 Officers (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary), and the rest of the Committee would be co-opted members. Paul to prepare a brief for Committee approval, for later distribution to the membership.</li> </ul>	PW
6.	<p>Preparation for Concert – Saturday 17 June 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul confirmed that the church has been booked for Choir Rehearsal on Monday 12 June.</li> <li>Charities to be decided and discussed with members. Liz suggested Sarcoidosis UK and Parkinson's Disease.</li> <li>Members had requested a programme for future Concerts.</li> <li>Wine/soft drinks/nibbles to be served as refreshments.</li> <li>Liz to ask at Invicta Grammar School if there would be the possibility of having the Steel Pan Band at the Concert.</li> </ul>	EO
7.	<p>Robin's ideas (as sheet attached to Agenda):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Robin's email to Paul on 8 February and email to Liz on 22 March – <i>Robin was not in agreement that the village hall, without a stage, could not adequately accommodate an audience of 150+ with a choir of 60.</i> This was discussed at length and it was felt that the hall without the stage would not be adequate for a concert, considering the closeness of the choir to the audience, need for space for a conductor's podium and accompanies, refreshment facilities and further considering the quality of the acoustics in a packed venue.</li> <li>Robin suggested that: <i>The decision to change venue for the June concert to St Peter's Church was not discussed by the Committee:</i> Paul agreed that this was so, but it was noted that the venue change was advised to the whole choir at rehearsal and no objections were raised at the</li> </ul>	

	<p>time. With the sparse information regarding hall refurbishment to hand at the time (February), the decision was taken to change venue, to ensure that our concert could be accommodated on the agreed date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Robin suggested that alternative forms of performance could be considered, with or without the whole choir:</i> This was discussed. It was reiterated that the main performances of the choir were concerts. Other opportunities/types of performance are considered as they are presented. It was noted that efforts are already being made to continue including young musicians in our concerts. Several likely possibilities are in hand for the June concert. (See Item 10 – Any Other Business).</li> </ul> <p>It was also reiterated that the music selection and general direction of the musical repertoire of the choir are the responsibility of the Music Director.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the possibility of having a ‘Concert behind closed doors’ or ‘BMCC Has Hidden Talent’. This would be a social evening for the choir to be considered for next Spring.</p>	
8.	<p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boughton Coronation Event – 7 May 2023 – An event which members may wish to attend and help lead community singing.</li> <li>• Village Fete – Saturday 1 July 2023 – discussed as above.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p>Purchases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To date the following had been purchased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3 tables for the Church</li> <li>▪ 2 tables for the Choir</li> <li>▪ One metre square podium/step</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Debby suggested buying a speaker for choir use. Karen to send details of speaker and model number to Jeff.</li> </ul>	KH
10.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul advised that we had been approached to sing at the Music Festival on 30 September 2023, at St Peters Church. This would be a 30-minute slot.</li> <li>• St Peter’s Church Rose Festival – will we sing? Date to be confirmed.</li> <li>• New Rehearsal Schedule was discussed and will be sent to Members once populated.</li> </ul>	
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Friday 15 September 2023, 7.30pm, at 6 Penny Close, Boughton Monchelsea.</p>	