

ALTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 27th November 2014 at The Friends Meeting House,
Alton at 19.00hrs**

Committee: Gill Moore (Chairman),
Helen Brown (Minutes Secretary),
Sue Lawrence (Treasurer),
Jenny Hallett (Membership Secretary),
Carolyn Robson (Musical Director)
Robin Sturdy (Committee member)

Item	Discussion	Action / Comments
Apologies	All members of the committee were present.	
Minutes of the last Meeting	Approval of the minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday 23 rd October 2014, proposed by Sue Lawrence and seconded by Gill Moore. The minutes were signed.	Approved minutes to go onto website. HB to ask Alison.
Matters Arising	There were no matters arising	
Finance	Bank Balance - £7,927.48 at 10th November 2014	
	Charity balance is currently £00.00	No raffle money has yet been passed on to SL.
	The amended agreement re an increase of Carolyn's fee from £100 to £104.60 per session was signed by Gill Moore and Carolyn.	
	Carolyn's fee for AWC. (The query arose from an enquiry re expenses from the concert venue organiser.)	It was unanimously agreed this should come from choir funds.
	Further clarification is needed with regard as to exactly what events should be covered by the musical director's fee. SL presented guidelines for discussion.	Summarising ;- the MD will be paid from choir funds for performances and concerts as well as all practices. See the postscript following minutes.
Membership	There are currently 64 members on role with a new member to start in January.	
	19.11.14 – email received from Lesley Wright re reviewing membership with the suggestion that new members	It was agreed that this was a suitable arrangement and would be implemented.

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	should start at the beginning of terms.	
Correspondence	14.11.14 – email from Pete Stephens re a New Year’s Party being run by ‘Rough Folk’	All agreed that as ACC were not arranging a similar event the information should be circulated to the choir. <i>(done – 29.11.14)</i>
Past Concert	At War’s Command at Liss – 9.11.14	The concert went according to plan and was well received raising £515 for ‘Combat Stress’. There were some comments as to why ACC hadn’t performed AWC in Alton.
Winter Concert and Singing at The Golden Pheasant.	Saturday 6 th December 2014, 7.00pm at Alton Methodist Church.	People have volunteered to set out chairs, prepare punch and provide mince pies. Gill will open the church at 6.15pm.
	Programme of songs.	This was finalised.
	Readings of prose and poetry	Final selection was agreed. SL to contact readers.
	Singing at The Golden Pheasant – Farringdon – 18.11.14	Meet at about 8.00pm.
Possible Future Concerts	Haydn Chappell approached Carolyn about the possibility of performing AWC in January at the Alton Community Centre.	It is not possible to do so as early as January. Time is needed for rehearsal time for other material. Moira Craig and Angus Beaton are unavailable.
	After the committee meeting of 23.11.14 Emilia Barnett asked CR about the possibility of ACC performing AWC at Waverley Abbey House on Thursday 25 th June next year, to mark the National Armed Forces Week.	This will be considered once more information becomes available. The choir would be asked if they would be in agreement about doing another performance of AWC.
	If the above AWC concert goes ahead in June it might be possible to arrange for another performance to take place in Alton within a short time – possibly at Alton Community Centre.	
Joint Choirs Venture/s	This is planned for 21 st March 2015.	
	SL contacted Haydn Chappell to clarify information about capacity and facilities in order to help assess the	The Centre is now booked

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	suitability of Alton Community Centre.	
		Capacity – 120 (approx) Fee - £95 (approx) Lunches can be provided at additional cost. A raffle to be organised – for Centre funds. The centre will benefit from bar takings.
	CR has already made contact with a choir leader at Rowledge.	CR will contact choir leaders. Possibly, a choir at Crondall and Guildford Vox)
	(From committee meeting 23.10.14. A sub-committee will be needed.)	(This will be organised nearer the time.)
Term dates	8 th Jan – 2 nd April. Half-term break 19 th Feb.	
ATTA (Alton Town Twinning Association)	It would be useful to have a choir member, preferably living in or near Alton, who could liaise with ATTA and deal with emails from them.	HB to send an email to members asking for a volunteer.
Website	Choir photo update.	HB and Alison have having technical difficulties downloading photos from the Sarah Morgan Memorial Concert web-site for use on the ACC website. HB to ask Alison to put next term's dates on website.
Proposed trip to Herborn	Sue Lawrence has circulated a booking form with a request for deposits of £50 by the end of November	
AGM	Approval of the draft minutes of AGM for display on web-site.	This will be deferred to a future committee meeting
AOB	There was no other business.	
Next meeting	Thursday 29th January 2015 at 7.00pm at The Friends Meeting House, Alton	

Minutes submitted by Helen Brown (Minutes Secretary)

Proposed by –

Seconded by –

Guideline for ACC payment of MD Fees:

MD fees for a choir performance at an event that does not require overnight stay, should be paid from the Choir's General Funds.

This means:

- a) We do not seek MD fee as expenses from event organised by others in aid of charity.
- b) MD fee does not come out of ticket money for ticketed event organised by ACC in aid of our own nominated charities – but costs such as hall hire, payment to other professional performers, refreshments, promotional costs etc will come out of ticket money.
- c) If MD charges professional fee for an event which does not involve performance by ACC then that should be covered by ticket money (eg Hampshire Carols). Longer trips involving one or more overnight stay, whether in UK or abroad, should be self-financing. (Rationale: some choir members may be consistently excluded from these events because of domestic responsibilities, financial considerations or other reasons – so we this type of event should be self-financing.)

This was discussed by the committee at our meeting on 27th November 2014 and Carolyn noted that she agreed with the proposed guideline but her reasons were different. She felt that the choir's performances were an integral part of the choir's purpose, the reason why we learn and practice songs. Choir funds are used to pay MD fees for practice nights so it seems a natural progression that they should also be used to pay MD fees for performances.

As these two different approaches reach the same conclusion I would suggest that we adopt the guideline – but acknowledge that it is just a guideline. If an individual situation arises where we agree that another arrangement would be more appropriate for whatever reason, then we could do something different.

[Robin raised a point about ACC guaranteeing the professional fees of those involved in an event like the Hampshire Carols workshop in the future. This is a different issue – we might give such a guarantee but it would be on a one-off basis and would require the agreement of the choir.]