

# **ROMSEY SINGERS**

## **Minutes of the AGM 30/11/20**

(Held online by Zoom and hosted by Marianna Lo Conte)

**Apologies:** Simon Ackworth, Kim Brown, Ian Knight, Sophie Lawson

Dick Hewett as acting chairman since Ian Knight's resignation in October, called on Helen Woodgates to inform the choir of the gift given in recognition of Ian's chairmanship of the choir for the last 11 years. A hamper was sourced in Lymington by Helen and Felicity and delivered to Ian by Helen and David Woodgates and Keith Tomkinson. A gift of flowers was chosen and delivered by Keith Tomkinson to Pat Nobbs in recognition of at least 16 years carrying out the important post of publicity officer. Helen also wished to send good wishes to Ian for a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

**Minutes of the 2019 AGM Meeting** were accepted unanimously.

**Chairman's Report (attached)**

**Musical Director's Report (attached)**

Phil expressed his sadness that some members were unable to sing during the pandemic and completely understood their reasons for this. He added that despite the difficulties caused by writing and accepting a new constitution, members must not lose sight of the purpose of the choir. Performing the music we love and bringing joy to our audiences must be at the forefront of everyone's focus, despite the restrictions that the Covid pandemic has forced on us all.

**Treasurer's Report**

We made a loss of £1,451.76 mainly due to the lack of concerts because of Covid, but also because of the added expense of engaging a small orchestra for the Christmas Concert 2019, which was budgeted for. The annual accounts were proposed and accepted.

**Subscriptions**

Dick asked Helen to explain the policy towards non-payment terms.

Karen asked whether the policy for non-payment was a little harsh. Helen assured her that the 7 stage policy will be both effective and sensitive to any problems of paying.

Subscriptions for 2019-2020 will finish at the end of December 2020. All members will be asked to pay £15 in January for the Spring term 2021 (to cover fixed costs and insurance).

Members able to sing next Spring term will be asked to pay an extra £25 in July 2021.

Members singing for the Spring and Summer terms will be asked to pay an extra £65 in July 2021. Members voted by 90% for these proposals.

**Minutes of the EGM Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> October** and the new Constitution were accepted by 97%.

**Appointment of Committee Members**

Liz Davies wished to make it clear that had the members realised that Dick had had to take over the Chairman's job as well as being Treasurer, they would not have written their letter of enquiries in the same tone about the progress of the motions suggested for the new Constitution.

Marianna pointed out that the new Constitution still does not make it clear how positions on the committee are voted for. Charlie Bettinson also expressed his feelings about the fact that the wording is still ambiguous and caused unnecessary doubts and ill feeling. Members then voted on whether to delay voting for a new Chairman until next AGM 2021. Members voted against this by 93%.

Members then voted on the 3 options to elect committee members: 1) voting for 6 new members: 2) voting for a Chairman and Treasurer and 4 new members: 3) voting for all posts on the committee

The members voted for the last option 3) by a small majority.

**NB** Dick suggested that this option 3) should be used for all future elections at the AGM.

### **Voting of Executive Committee followed**

**Chairman:** Helen Woodgates, proposed by Keith Tomkinson and seconded by Charlie Bettinson, accepted by 93%

**Treasurer:** Dick Hewett, proposed by Charlie Bettinson and seconded by Pat Nobbs, accepted by 97%

**Librarian:** Ellen McGeorge, proposed by Dick Hewett and seconded by Charlie Bettinson, accepted by 100%

**Publicity Officer:** Erica Coutable, proposed by Priscilla Cook, seconded by Marianna Lo Conte, accepted by 100%

**Membership Secretary:** Sam Yates, proposed by Dick Hewett and seconded by Helen Woodgates, accepted by 100%

**Secretary:** Felicity Pellow still has a year to complete her 3 year stint, so no vote was needed.

### **Voting of new members to the committee:**

Marianna Lo Conte, proposed by Erica Coutable and seconded by Andrew Duncombe, accepted by 76%

Sarah Smith, proposed by Helen Woodgates and seconded by Felicity Pellow, accepted by 93%

Charlie Bettinson, withdrew his nomination for the reasons given above.

Dick Hewett confirmed the new Committee.

### **AOB**

Helen informed the members that Geoff Morden has retired from the choir due to mobility problems.

Timsbury Hall is open again from Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Phil would like to rehearse that evening. Anyone who can't attend should contact Phil a.s.a.p.

Helen reminded the new committee that a Zoom meeting will be held next Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.

Helen thanked Dick and Marianna for arranging the AGM zoom meeting.