

**3Romsey Singers - Minutes of the Committee Meeting 6th January 2021  
Held via Zoom**

**Present:** Priscilla Cook (PC), Erica Coutable (EC), Dick Hewett (DH), Phil Lawson (PL), Marianna Lo Conte (ML), Ellen McGeorge (EM), Felicity Pellow (FP), Sarah Smith (SS), Keith Tomkinson (KT), Helen Woodgates (HW), Sam Yates (SY).

Item	Action
<b>1. Apologies</b> None	
<b>2. Minutes of meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b> Accepted with corrections by Dick Hewett re Romsey Opportunity Group	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b> Dick needs to set up the new cheque signatories. The committee approved the AGM Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 with some amendments to meet the Charity Commission requirements of our new constitution.</p> <p>Data Protection Policy. Helen has adjusted the policy used by Farrant Singers to suit the Romsey Singers Choir. The page referring to Patrons will be removed until such times as we have any. Sam Yates, as Membership Secretary will amend the policy. Charlie Bettinson may be willing to invite patrons. He could do this as a non committee member. Helen will ask him. The committee voted to accept the policy of holding choir members' details.</p> <p>Helen asked Phil what plans he has for new choir members. In general, Phil would like to wait until the whole choir can sing, so that he can assess the balance. He knows a good bass and thought that if he joins, Charlie could be asked to move up to 2<sup>nd</sup> tenor.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>SY</p> <p>HW</p>
<p><b>4. 2020 Christmas Concert</b> .Phil was delighted with the way in which the Abbey organised the safe seating for the audience and the joyful decorations. He thought the choir with its reduced numbers performed really well. He congratulated Keith on his organ solos. Over all Phil thought it was a great success. Helen thanked Dick for arranging the chairs for the choir and thanked Phil for having the courage to put on this concert with very reduced singers.</p>	
<p><b>5. Spring Concert 2021</b> Phil has contacted Adrian Taylor and he is willing to play for the Spring and Summer concerts. The two soloists booked for last year's cancelled Stainer's Crucifixion have agreed to sing this year. With Covid 19 restrictions, the soloists could sing from the pulpit. This year there would be no Interval, so Phil will be taking out some pieces from the planned programme, e.g. Totus Tuus.</p>	<p>PL</p>
<p><b>6. Summer Concert 2021</b> Dick met up with a member of Beggars Belief with whom a joint charity concert had been planned last year. Dick advised the committee that we won't be planning to do it this year. The joint concert with the choir of Romsey Abbey is hopefully going to take place.</p>	
<p><b>7. Committee Jobs</b> Helen has asked Liz Davies if she would be willing to organise the choir parties in Pat's place. She will let Helen know. Helen said her husband David will do the service booklets needed for the cathedral weekends, unless there is anyone else who may volunteer. Felicity is happy to take the Minutes of meetings. A group of four committee members (Erica, Marianna, Sarah, Dick), and Pat Nobbs, who has retired from the committee, met to sort out the publicity and liaison with Music in Romsey. Sarah has produced a Summary Chart which Helen agreed should be sent to all the committee members. Marianna has volunteered to organise a quiz, by zoom, probably on a Friday or</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>MLoC</p>

<p>Saturday evening. She will send invitations to all choir members, and would need to have at least 10 people to take part with their family groups.</p>	
<p><b>8. Finance</b>  The Christmas Concert made a profit of £618. All the tickets were sold.  Dick produced two financial forecasts for Jan-July 2021: one with no singing would incur a loss of £157.47. The other forecast with members able to sing would incur a loss of £1,385.47.  With reduced subscriptions and no singing or hall rent, we incur smaller losses, but we would all prefer to be able to sing.  Sam will remind choir members to pay £15 subs for this term.  Marianna wondered whether professionally produced programmes might be a possibility, but as Erica pointed out, this would be very expensive.  It would also involve Music in Romsey collecting payments and handing over such monies to the Treasurer. The committee agreed to stick with the photocopied programmes.</p>	<p>SY</p>
<p>At this point, Phil Lawson left the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>AOB</b>  Helen informed the committee that a sub committee (Helen, Dick, Sam) has been proposed to deal with Phil's requests for an increase in fees.  The annual review into his fees is 4 years overdue. Having made enquiries about other choirs' fees to their conductors, Helen has discovered that Romsey Singers fees are a little below in comparison. The sub committee will meet very soon to put forward their recommendations. Discussion will take place by email and when agreement is achieved the sub committee will inform the main committee for approval.  In the meantime, an ex-gratia payment of £200 will be paid to Phil for the first half of this non-singing term. This is about half what he would normally be paid.  Helen asked for approval of forming a sub committee. All agreed.  Dick pointed out that to cover the extra cost of Phil's fees, either ticket prices or choir subscriptions should be increased.  Helen suggested that the agreed sum in the choir's deposit accounts should be looked at.</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> Feb</p>	