**Stanmore Choral Society Committee meeting:**

**Date: Weds June 4th 2014 Time: 8pm – 10**

**20 Radstock Avenue HA3 8PE**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Frances, Lesley, Robert, Gill W, Gillian, Mo, Aidan

1. Apologies for absence: Valerie, Rose, Nick
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.
3. Matters arising - 5 mins
4. Membership – Mo has contacted Igrain but has not heard from her yet – she will follow up the contact. She will also contact others connected with the choir like Marion and Alan Goss, about them becoming friends.
5. There were no new developments regarding the ex-examiner.
6. Treasurer’s report – A full treasurer’s report will be presented at the next meeting. The bank balance was just over £5000, and a balance sheet was circulated to the committee. Reclaiming tax is ongoing and should be finished for summer term. Gillian will be comparing the proposed budget for next year’s concerts with previous budgets to ensure that it’s reasonable. The spring concert had been comparatively expensive, including some unexpected cost for percussion.
7. Summer concert –the choir would need 2 bumpers – bass and tenor. It was agreed that the refreshments would be scones, cream and strawberry jam. A decision about whether to serve wine would be taken later, and it was suggested that we encourage donations for refreshments. Frances would check whether Shirlaw would be available to do front of house and Mo would ask Margaret to look after refreshments and Lesley would find out whether Brian could print the programmes. Nick had sent a notification that 2 items are to be dropped, with an updated rehearsal schedule. Mo would send this in her weekly update.
8. Autumn Concert – Nick has circulated the proposed programme for the year. Mo will produce some bookmarks of the programme to go in the choir publicity leaflet. There was general agreement that the programme is suitable. There was a discussion of some undertaking some links with Harrow Operatic group (Daniella’s group) and Mo would talk to her about it.
9. Aidan attended the meeting to discuss proposed improvements to the website –The website is currently using Wordpress, which is not the easiest to use as it was primarily intended as blogging tool. It is giving problems – introducing blogs ruined the navigation within the site. Aidan has approached a former BBC colleague who has a freelance business. She forwarded a discussion document and proposed solutions for some of the problems.

Mo asked for clarification. Mo wanted two improvements in addition to what was discussed: secure storage on the website for choir documents, and an emphasis on attracting membership. The ability to book tickets online would be a further advantage.

The committee had a discussion via Skype with Alice and asked her to carry out the first two sections of improvements outlined in her document. She intended to have the whole of the changes made by the end of July. She would continue to communicate via Aidan.

1. Publicity update – Bob had drafted a publicity release for the summer concert – there was discussion of whether he could include more details to raise the profile of the silver band. Mo agreed to circulate his draft article.
2. Membership update and recruitment drive through summer were discussed– it was felt that we need another publicity drive for recruitment. It was agreed that we would draw up a press release for recruitment purposes. FG suggested that we have a stall at the Harrow in Leaf Show at August Bank holiday and was asked to book one– she would also investigate the possibility of performing. Mo asked whether we wanted to take part in the next Voices for Hospices event in 2015.
3. Social events – Mo offered to host Bob’s photo soiree. The possibility of an auction of promises – maybe in Easter term – was discussed. Mo has potential auctioneer. It was agreed that we would try for a meal out in November as a purely social event- FG would find a potential venue. There would be a garden party on July 14th at Mo’s.
4. Committee members for 2014/2015 – Everyone confirmed that they would stand for the committee next year. Mo said that she would like to leave next year, having done 5 years and that there was therefore a need to start planning for succession.

1. Any other business
2. Father Edward had asked whether a non-profit carol concert with free tickets would be possible. It was decided that we still needed to charge to cover the choir’s costs, but we would be willing to keep it cheap and contribute a donation to the church in lieu of fee for hire of church.
3. Date of next meeting – dates will be Doodled