

# NORTH YORKSHIRE CHORUS

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 28th October 2017 in the Methodist Church Hall Northallerton

**Apologies for absence:** Linda Kentley, Anne Young, Hannah Mortimer, Susan Perkins, Hazel Sumsion, Ann Hutchings, Stephen Goodwin, Owen Hayward, Kathleen Fyles, Julie Stevens, Barbara Poole, Julie Smith, Eric Meynell

As Owen Hayward was unable to be present, the meeting was chaired by Elizabeth Harbord.

1. **Minutes of the AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016** were agreed and signed.
2. **Treasurer's report:** the accounts had been prepared by the outgoing Treasurer (Anne Young) but she has now left NYC and was not present to answer any questions. The audited accounts were available at the meeting and a copy is attached to these minutes. The acting chair said that a new Treasurer would be appointed at the next committee meeting and undertook to get answers for any questions which were asked about the accounts.

The Committee proposed an amendment to the recommendation in the report in respect of subscriptions, to increase the £40 for a half year to £50. This is to encourage people to sign up for the full year, to assist with the financial situation, but not to make it unreasonably expensive for half a year if people aren't able to attend the rehearsals for one of the concerts. This amendment was proposed by Jean Hayward, seconded by Peter Perkins, and agreed by the members. Subscription levels for 2018/19 will remain the same, but in future subscriptions will be due at the first rehearsal in September.

The committee also proposed, and members agreed, that Ian Smithson be re-appointed as independent examiner to the Trustees of the North Yorkshire Chorus.

### 3. **Chair's Report (from Owen Hayward)**

*The last year has seen the choir perform two successful, and very different concerts. The Christmas concert at Bedale, was a risk as it was a new venue for the choir and it was not certain how easy it would be to get an audience. However, the audience was good, and very appreciative. I think most people enjoyed singing in the venue, even if the both the Vaughan Williams and the Bernstein had some 'exciting' moments for singers and conductors (Caroline conducted the Bernstein) alike! It would be fair to say that the Rutter was a slightly more relaxed affair for all concerned.*

*The spring concert was the second time the choir has performed Opera Choruses in the Forum. Another successful event with pretty much a full house, and the feedback from the audience was again excellent.*

*Great credit must go to Greg for conducting both concerts so well, but primarily getting the choir prepared so well each time. One of the particular features of this choir is the variety of the repertoire, not all of which is very easy, and often much of it is new to a good many members. Greg should be rightly proud of getting the choir to sing these pieces as well as we do, so thanks to him again.*

*Of course, without an accompanist equal to the task of working with Greg, this would be much harder, and in Caroline we have an accompanist who works so hard and brings an extra dimension to the choir. She has on a number of occasions stepped into to the*

*conductor's role, not just at the Bedale concert, but also for some rehearsals, so many thanks go to Caroline as well.*

*Now to some of the challenges ahead. The financial situation is stable in the short-term, but needs to be considered going forward. Although the treasurer's report recommends keeping the full year subscriptions at the same level as at present, it is likely that the committee will recommend an increase in future years. Also further fund-raising will be required, not just for the 2020 concert with Wetherby, but as an on-going contribution to the financial sustainability of the choir. Linked to this is the need to maintain choir numbers, both for the income from subscriptions and ticket sales, as well as to maintain a reasonable size for performances.*

*As well as Kathleen Fyles and Peter Perkins who joined the committee at the last AGM, we have a willing volunteer in Richard Gott, who will take on the Treasurer's role if elected to the committee today. We now have a fairly new committee who will work hard to meet these challenges, but it will require plenty of support from other choir members, and I thank you all in advance for this assistance.*

*Finally, I would like to mention, and extend my thanks to, three previous committee members. Firstly Hazel Sumsion for her work as the previous chair, and on a personal note for her generosity of time in handing over to me as new chair, and for answering questions I still have a year in. And secondly, to Ann Hutchings, who had to leave the committee mid-year due to ill health. Both have spent many years and much hard work making this choir run smoothly. The third is Anne Young, who has been treasurer for the six years I have been in the choir, and possibly longer. Thanks to all three.*

The Acting Chair also thanked non-committee members, such as Anne, Linden and Peter who undertake essential tasks such as putting out rehearsal chairs, working out concert seating plans, and running the website.

- 4. Election of Committee:** the existing members were re-elected with the addition of Richard Gott (proposed by Hazel Sumsion, seconded by MaureenJames).

#### **5. Any Other Business**

Membership secretary (Peter Perkins) requested that members complete a form giving up-to-date information and also a section on Gift Aid when they pay their subscription, which is due now. Members were also informed that it was possible to pay by online by BACS, but anyone paying that way is asked to inform Peter Perkins by email ([pjpvols@gmail.com](mailto:pjpvols@gmail.com)).

Two members had suggested topics for discussion such as running a “**Come and Sing**” afternoon and another look at the frequency of rehearsal dates. Both of these issues will be discussed at the next committee meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup> and members' views canvassed.

The meeting closed at 3.35pm

Signed.....Dated.....

Charity Registration Number 508619