

BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 5 September 2017

Chairman: Reuben Suckling

Present: 45 members.

1. Apologies for Absence Carol Belk, Tony Earnshaw, Lyn Groves, Ann Hanson, Victoria Harding-Rolls, Fred Harrison, David John, Jan John, Anne Mitchell, Rob Potter, John Rapley, Alison Robins, Sue Rowlinson, Sue Saxby-Smith, Angela Sharwood, Mary Suckling, Sue Tanton, Anne Washtell.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM (30 August 2016).
These were agreed as correct and signed.

3. Chairman's Report This had been previously circulated and was noted without comment.

4. Annual Financial Report and Accounts The Treasurer, Nick Hands-Clarke, introduced the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016/17 (which had been previously circulated) confirming they had been independently reviewed by David Sinden and signed off by him – Nick expressed his gratitude to David for this. Assuming approval of the Report and Accounts, Nick will make the necessary Charity Commission returns and lodge the Report and Accounts as required. He felt the new banking arrangements with Lloyds were working well and the electronic banking arrangements are useful and help to keep costs down. We do require dual control on electronic payments – equivalent to two signatures on cheques – and this is also a requirement of grant applications. Since the end of the accounting year (30 June) the choir had received £268 net from Teas on the Green, and we have already received £420 for programme adverts. The Tour fund benefitted from a surplus of about £200 from the Portsmouth trip. Overall, the choir funds were the highest they have ever been, even taking account of inflation, due to sterling efforts on fund raising and on ticket sales. This was a fair balance given that the coming year budget of around £26,000 will see large expenditure on the Spring concert, Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony. Robin Luff pointed out a minor typo in the Notes to the Accounts – Nick will correct this in the version sent to the Charity Commission. Robin also asked about expenditure on the staging. Nick confirmed that funds would allow for some expenditure on the trailer and staging. Finally, Nick explained he would be standing down as Treasurer due to family commitments but was standing again for the committee and would be very happy to work with the new Treasurer. Moira Sinden proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, seconded by Jackie Rance; this was carried *nem con*. Reuben thanked Nick for all his hard work as Treasurer. David Sinden was proposed as Examiner by Nick and seconded by Alison Jesson; this was carried *nem con*.

5. Subscriptions Nick explained that the 2017/18 budget covered professional fees and venue hire for rehearsals and concerts and that apportioning this expenditure across the membership indicated that we should raise subs by £10 to £130 per year – this would equate to an increase of less than 30p per rehearsal and compared very favourably to other local choirs. A number of members had also paid an additional donation in previous years and such donations would continue to be welcomed. Members could pay in stages if required. The increase was proposed by Nick, seconded by Jane Stride and agreed *nem con*.

6. Music Director's Report This had been previously circulated and was noted without comment. Patrick thanked the choir for a wonderful first year with him and was looking forward to a most challenging second year.

7. Election of Chairman

Ed Criswick took the chair. Reuben Suckling had expressed his agreement to standing again as Chairman; there being no other nominations Reuben was proposed by Robin, seconded by Romey Criswick and elected *nem con*.

8. Election of Committee

Reuben said 7 existing committee members were willing to stand again: Ed Criswick, Estelle Earnshaw, Nick Hands-Clarke, Anne Mitchell, Phil Slack, Jane Stride and Pauline Whitehead. Alison Robins had already been nominated and seconded. Eloise Dimmer nominated John Dimmer, seconded by Jenni Lee-Potter. Their election *en bloc* was proposed by Jenni and seconded by Michael Doughty, and they were elected *nem con*.

9. Any Other Business

Performing Arts Library Jenni explained that Surrey County Council were proposing to break up the Performing Arts Library (PAL), currently housed at Denbies, as a cost-cutting measure and that they were holding a consultation on this with options for its possible future. She warned of us perhaps ending up in a situation where we were very limited as to what we could perform. She said that other music libraries were also having challenges, and she and Anne Tennent were finding it increasingly difficult to source music for the choir and were having to use several different sources, which cost us more. Jackie said for her the problem was that she would no longer be able to go to choose a drama text. Julianne Williams said the Friends of the Performing Arts were recommending that PAL be taken out of SCC's control and taken over by a not-for-profit organisation, and were urging others to support this line. Jenni said the crucial point was that we risked losing access to hiring scores for the choir and she and Anne had already put in a joint submission. There was also the point that we would lose the expertise of the PAL staff. Ed agreed to circulate the link to the consultation document so that members could comment.

10. Date of Next AGM

4 September 2018.