

Minutes of Derby Hospitals Choir AGM, Woodlands Evangelical Church, 7-Sep-2022

AGM & AGM Secretary

Geraldine Comery was appointed secretary for the AGM of Derby Hospitals Choir (also known as Derby and Burton Hospitals Choir), proposed by Kathy Greig and seconded by Richard Kendal and unanimously agreed by the members present.

The members voted to consider the meeting as an official AGM – (in favour=33, against=1, abstentions=0).

Attendees and Apologies

There were 34 attendees (plus Musical Director) plus apologies from 14 members. A list of attendees and apologies is attached. (Post meeting note: a total of 55 members had either written to David Henshaw and/or attended tonight's AGM to support continuation of the choir)

Minutes of the last AGM

The last AGM with members was in April 2019. There had been a meeting in 2020 called an AGM to approve the accounts and minutes but only committee members were invited and no elections were held. The minutes of 2019 were not reviewed in detail at tonight's meeting.

Chairperson's report

Louise Hill declined to attend but David Henshaw reminded the members that Louise had overseen five concerts from 2015 to 2019 as chairperson, raising approximately £50,000, much of which was a result Louise's hard work and fund-raising abilities. Following Covid-lockdown the committee had agreed to perform 2 concerts in 2022, but Louise had cancelled these just before rehearsals started in April, partly due to concerns over Covid and also over concerns regarding whether much money would be raised.

The meeting thanked Louise for her hard work and very successful fundraising during her time as chairperson.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Pauline Dunn (co-opted during lockdown), was not present and had not provided any financial information, although David said he felt she had been efficient at her job.

The meeting thanked Pauline for her work as treasurer over the last few years.

Special Item – Closure of the Choir or Continuation

History

David Henshaw explained some of the recent history of committee meetings, Louise's wish to step down in 2019 or 2020 and the lack of success at finding a replacement. Her move to close the choir, including asking the committee to vote between two closure options and her rejecting of David's offer to be chairman or his suggestion to continue the choir or to organise rehearsals was also mentioned.

He also said that he had asked Louise to hold an AGM but that Louise had said that no AGM was necessary according to legal advice she had been given. He reminded members that Louise had said she did not recognise tonight's meeting as a Hospital Choir AGM, although the constitution required one annually and did not specify who should organise it.

Future

David Henshaw said he would stand as chairman tonight, unless anyone else wanted to, and would aim to resume rehearsals as soon as possible. He would not be asking any hospital department or other health charity to organise a big prize draw nor asking members to sell prize draw tickets, as neither they nor us have the resources to do this.

His plan was that rehearsals would be on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm, during the Autumn, preferably in a similar area of Derby to where we used to rehearse, and we would aim to raise a small amount of money at a small concert in early December. The rehearsal venue would be paid for by a member's fee of £10-£20 for the term, and the concert venue would be covered by the audience ticket price, with a further £2-£3 then added to the ticket price to provide the fund-raising element.

Resources

He said that any follow-on choir would need a float of perhaps £600 to book rehearsal and concert venues and would also need music. It was not clear to members what money was currently left in the Hospital Choir account (at one time there was £4000 there), nor was it clear what was happening with the music although one person said they had been told that it had all been removed from the hospital storeroom. David said he had been told his own music arrangements had been placed in the corridor for him to collect if he wished. It was mentioned that Louise had sent an email out saying that she was holding a meeting on 14th September 2022 to decide what to do with the music and the funds in the account.

David said that the 2019 AGM had elected Louise "for one more year" according to the minutes, and that (according to the constitution) the committee were also all now overdue for re-election and therefore had no mandate, but that practically it was difficult to see how to stop them disposing of the assets regardless of whether it was right or not.

David said he had written to the previous Patron, John Rivers, and to the current patron, Dr Kathy McClean, explaining the situation as he saw it, and was waiting to hear their further thoughts, having had initial acknowledgements.

Several members suggested that legal advice be sought and Veronica Churchhouse offered to ask a friend.

Venues

The members were keen to continue, and suggested some possible rehearsal venues, including St Benedict's School, St Nicholas's Church or Hall, St Alkmund's Church, St. Anne's Hall and St. John's Methodist church (next to Park Farm Centre).

It was noted that the venue should be one with good acoustics and in regular use (so warm without being expensive).

Election of Officers and Committee

The members unanimously agreed to invoke clause 20 of the constitution in order to allow **vocal nominations on the night** (overriding clause 8 which requires nominations in writing to the secretary one week beforehand).

The Officers and Committee Members were each unanimously elected as follows:

Chairman – David Henshaw, proposed by Diann Jacobs and seconded by Joy Walsh.

Secretary – Kath Cawdell, proposed by Beverley Martin and seconded by Maggie Evans.

Treasurer – Shirley Searson, proposed by Veronica Churchhouse and seconded by Diana Alleyne.

Committee – Kathy Greig, proposed by Doreen Heath, seconded by Aileen Walsh.

Committee – Michael Wilcockson, proposed by Phil Harrison, seconded by Richard Kendal.

Committee – Joy Walsh, proposed by Michael Wilcockson, seconded by June Blood.

Committee – Anne Mellors, proposed by Jean Jones, seconded by Veronica Churchhouse.

Committee Size

The members unanimously agreed to invoke clause 20 of the constitution in order to allow a **minimum committee size of 6** (the 3 officers + 3 others), overriding clause 4 which requires a minimum of 12).

The members unanimously agreed to invoke clause 20 of the constitution in order to allow a **committee quorum size of 4**, overriding clause 10 which states a quorum size of 6.

Any Other Business

Choir Name

Possible names for the choir were discussed; many were not keen on a Derby choir including “Burton” in the name (although they understood the original reason) and there was support for being called some kind of Community Choir; one member suggested including “Derbyshire” in the name rather than just Derby. No decision was made; the name could be decided once it was clear whether there was music and a venue for a choir.

Music

The members unanimously voted for Louise to be asked to pass the music on to this new choir. Options for storing music were suggested but it was agreed that first we need some music.

AGM Venue

At the suggestion of one member, the members agreed to cover the cost of the AGM venue hire by contributing £1, resulting in a £9 surplus for future use!

A photograph was taken as a record of the meeting and the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Geraldine Comery

Attendees:

Mr	ADAMSON	Billy
Mrs	ADAMSON	Sue
Mrs	ALLEYNE	Diana
Mrs	BLOOD	June
Mrs	BLOOR	Ann
Ms	BOWMAN	Pam
Ms	BROWN	Pat
Mrs	CAWDELL	Kathleen
Mrs	CHURCHHOUSE	Veronica
Mrs	COMERY	Geraldine
Mrs	EVANS	Maggie
Mrs	GREIG	Kathy
Mr	HARRISON	Phil
Mrs	HEATH	Doreen
Mr	HENSHAW	David
Mrs	HIGGINBOTHAM	Maggie
Mrs	HIGHMAN	Pamela
Ms	HITCHCOCK	Shirley
Ms	HOPE	Rosemary
Dr	HOUGH	Allan
Ms	HULLAND	Christine
Ms	JACOBS	Diann
Mr	KENDALL	Richard
Mrs	LAFFIN	Jan
Miss	MARTIN	Beverley
Mrs	MELLORS	Anne
Mrs	SEARSON	Shirley
Mr	SMITH	Eric
Mrs	SMITH	Judith
Mrs	STRELLEY-JONES	Jean
Ms	THORPE	Elizabeth
Mrs	WALSH	Aileen
Mrs	WALSH	Joy
Mr	WILCOCKSON	Michael
Mrs	ZOBEL	Tessa

Apologies

Mrs	ASTLEY	Ruth
Ms	BALL	Colette
Ms	CARR	Linda
Mrs	CLARKE	Linda
Mrs	DAVIES	Joy
Mrs	EDGE	Valerie
Ms	FOWLER	Sarah
Mrs	GILL	Ruth
Ms	GIRLING	Terrina
Ms	HALFPENNY	Kathryn
Mrs	HANSEN	Jill
Mrs	LEE	Lynne
Mrs	LEEDHAM	Linda
Mrs	MADDOCK	Pat

