

WCCC Virtual Committee Meeting 25th April 2020 – Minutes

Present: Phil Crowther (PC), Stephen Shellard (SS), Judith Aldridge (JA), Carole Oliver (CO), Kevern Oliver (KO), Rebecca Jones (RJ), Mark Wilson (MW), Sue Stanford (SSt), Anne Renshaw (ARn), Eileen Roberts (ER), Sarah Donaldson (SD,) Michael Brierley (MB), Richard Holroyd (RH), Helen Randall (HR) and Robin Walker(RW)

Minute		Action
1	PC welcomed members to the committee's first ever virtual meeting. He thanked SD for hosting it and handed over to KO to guide the meeting through the agenda.	
2	Minutes of meetings of 04/02/20 and 17/03/20 were unanimously agreed. No matters arising apart from those covered in the rest of the agenda.	
3	<p>Finances Purpose: <i>to review and accept, subject to eventual independent examination, the WCCC's accounts for the year 2019/20.</i></p> <p>CO and RJ presented the accounts for 2019/20. A surplus for 2019/20 year of £868 was noted and positively compared with a deficit of £344 for 2018/19. CO explained that this due to income of £800 from two weddings, Linda Ayres raffle (£653) and the surplus (£862) from the Brahms concert.</p> <p>The accounts were unanimously approved, subject to independent examination prior to presentation at the delayed AGM (22/10/20).</p> <p>RJ and CO and will now prepare a budget for 2020/21</p>	<p>CO, RJ</p> <p>RJ, CO</p>
4	<p>Operational Matters</p> <p>4.1 Website and Social Media Purpose: <i>Update on state, usage and developments.</i></p> <p>Website is up to date with appropriate pages about cancellations etc. SD latest posting on Facebook will be 1730 this p.m. and feature an extract from Rise Heart recording.</p> <p>4.2 Membership Purpose: <i>Update on current state of membership and attempts to keep in touch with members during Covid-19 shutdown.</i></p> <p>KO reported that feedback from individual members was mainly that they were well, missed singing and the fellowship of choir. Many were keen that there should be some sort of virtual meeting up during the shutdown.</p> <p>After a detailed discussion which explored a range of possibilities, it was agreed that RW would create a quiz which would be circulated to members. This would be followed up a few days later with a Zoom session in which members would hear/check answers and have the opportunity to socialise.</p> <p>Date and time to be determined once RW has had time to plan and develop</p> <p>SD agreed to be Zoom host.</p>	<p>SD</p> <p>RW SD</p>

	<p>NOTE: Virtual music making: It is clear from SD's direct experience and others' research that virtual rehearsals etc. are extremely resource intensive and require high level technical expertise of the kind to which WCCC does not have access. ER quoted www.worcestervoices.org.uk as an example of what was involved and suggested that members who wanted to get involved in a virtual singing ensemble should have a look at it.</p>	KO, All
5	<p>Developing WCCC – the way ahead</p> <p>5.1 2020/21 Service and Concert Schedule Purpose: <i>to review and agree, subject to existing and possible Covid-19 restrictions, the proposed schedule.</i></p> <p>After considerable discussion it was unanimously agreed that the proposed schedule would be the basis, subject to Covid-19 caveats, of the choir's 2020/21 plans and that it would be circulated to all members.</p> <p>NOTE: It was recognised that at the moment the autumn concerts are most at risk. A phased re-entry into normal life based on age-related and at-risk categories could mean that some members could not be able to return to choir until the end of 2020 or even later.</p> <p>5.2 The Sponsor-a-Carol Initiative Purpose: <i>continuation of discussions at 17/03/20 about how best to proceed with the June 2021 recording in ways which attract sponsorship, promote the choir's music making and mutually benefit the community and St. Richard's Hospice.</i></p> <p>ARn reported that arising from discussions on 17/03/20 she had been re-thinking the content of and purpose of the recording and the challenges presented by the post-Covid-19 business and charitable giving environment.</p> <p>In particular in order to attract sponsors we had to have a clearly identified USP. It was agreed that this would be a set of Christmas carols, all of which had a clear Worcester connection. SS and ARn will research.</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that: recording would proceed on the basis previously agreed i.e Chorum package which included streaming etc. and manufacture of 500 CDs which would be used for small scale sales and as visiting cards for sponsors. 773C would be asked to produce a design for promotional material.</p> <p>ARn explained that a likely forward was for St. Richard's to provide the venue, promotion, ticket sales etc. WCCC would meet the cost of recording through sponsorship. The subsequent benefit to WCCC would be high-profile exposure at a major public event with no/low direct costs.</p> <p>Unanimously agreed that the above was a good, sensible way forward and ARn will continue discussions with St. Richard's and report back to the Committee in due course</p> <p>5.3 Post Covid-19 cultural life Purpose: <i>discuss and identify ways in which the WCCC can be part of local initiatives to restart the cultural life of Worcester and Worcestershire</i></p> <p>ARn reported on early moves, lead by David Blake (DB) (Worcester City Council CEO) for a post-Covid 19 collaborative restart of the city's and county's cultural life. She suggested that WCCC should be part of this. In particular we should</p>	<p>KO</p> <p>SS, ARn</p> <p>SS, ARn, CO</p> <p>ARn</p> <p>Arn</p>

	<p>have a flexible approach to our schedule and a willingness to become involved, at individual member level, in projects such the restaging of the Mayflower event.</p> <p>Whilst our principal focus would be on meeting our Cathedral commitments, It was unanimously agreed that ARn should liaise with DB and keep the committee informed of developments and opportunities.</p> <p>Arising from the above HR, supported by other members suggested that the WCCC should offer a high profile, post Covid-19 concert/event, performed, for example, as a memorial for those that had died. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that the event should be another performance of Brahms' Requiem at a date and venue to be decided.</p>	<p>ARn</p> <p>SS, CO, KO</p>
6	<p>AGM Purpose: <i>to agree extraordinary arrangements for the distribution of AGM papers and the delayed meeting.</i></p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that the date of the postponed AGM, subject to Covid-19 caveats will be 22/10/20. Papers i.e. minutes of 2019 reports from MD, Chair, Treasurers and Secretary will be distributed in mid-May.</p>	<p>SS, PC, CO, RJ. KO</p>
7	<p>Date of next meeting. 1100 on 06/06/20 It will be virtual and will only be held if events and developments dictate that it is needed.</p>	<p>KO</p>