

WCCC Virtual Committee Meeting 3rd November 2021
Minutes

Present: Judith Aldridge (JA), Carole Oliver (CO), Kevern Oliver (KO), Anne Renshaw (ARn), Rebecca Fryer (RF), Helen Randall (HR), Robin Walker (RW) (advisory capacity) , Mark Wilson (MW), Peter Brook (PB), Eileen Roberts ER (advisory capacity)

minute		Action
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Peter B welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 21/22 Committee. He was delighted to be elected as chair and as the newcomer asked for everyone's support and understanding as he found his way into the role.</p> <p>He had already had an excellent 3 way Zoom session with SH and KO which enabled him to get to know SH and develop his knowledge and understanding of the Music Department. He was looking forward to developing the WCCC's relationship with it.</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Sam Hudson (SH), Stephen Shellard (SS), Sarah Donaldson (SD)</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of meeting on 08/09/21 and Matters Arising</p> <p>Minutes unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>7. SH has invited the WCCC to join</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cathedral's 2022 Christmas Celebration. This will be included in the 22/23 schedule of services. A spring/summer 2022 RSCM event which the Cathedral will host – Details will follow in due course. 	<p>KO</p> <p>SH, KO</p>
3	<p>Covid-19 Update</p> <p>ER joined the meeting (ER is the Committee's volunteer, principal advisor on Covid-19 matters. She is not a member of the Committee).</p> <p>ER reminded the Committee of its duty of care for members and that there is a continuing need for vigilance and rigorous precautions. This was particularly important because of the demographic of the WCCC and the vulnerability of some of its members.</p> <p>Following a lengthy and detailed discussion on how best to proceed the following were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehearsal duration should revert to the 90-minute maximum which we were operating earlier in the year. The Song School is not a suitable space for whole choir rehearsals. KO will liaise with SH on alternative venue when College Hall is not available e.g. 11/11/21, 02/12/21. Regular hiring of a rehearsal space e.g. St. Martin's not financially viable. Nine Lessons and Carols at Kempsey and Sedgley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A thorough site survey and risk assessment, in conjunction with local vicar/churchwarden will be done for both venues. The service should be shortened to last no more than 60". 	<p>SS</p> <p>KO</p> <p>ER, RW, CO, SS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the whole choir in a confined space is not safe. The suggestion is that the two services are shared out between choir members on a 50:50 basis, with SS deciding on the makeup of the halves. Curradine Barns wedding 20/12/21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential that a site survey is conducted asap and that the couple is made well aware of likely Covid constraints. Choir for this event will be small, 12 voices. Chosen by SS. There was need to update the risk and guidance documents, particularly as regards instructions to members regarding their Covid-19 contacts and the importance of LFT. ER will produce an update and KO will distribute to all members within the next few days. PB will brief members on Committee discussions on the above and the importance of adhering to Covid guidelines at next (04/11/21) rehearsal. <p>PB thanked ER for her continuing hard work. ER then left the meeting.</p>	SS ER, KO SS ER, KO PB
4	Financial Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RF and CO confirmed the figures quoted in their pre-meeting briefing: Balance in Cathedral bank account at 17/10/21 adjusted to £12069.70. There are still major issues with embarrassing delays to payments made on behalf of WCCC. RF and CO are trying to resolve them but responses from the Cathedral's finance department are minimal and slow. PB referred to the budget for 21/22 (produced for 27/02/21 Committee meeting), asking if it was correct that without external income the WCCC is in deficit. CO, RF and KO confirmed that this was the case and that the WCCC has always relied on external income to break even. A partial solution, a major increase in subscriptions had been discussed (27/02/21) but was considered inappropriate at current time. An actual v predicted budget statement, along with a bank balance will be produced for future meetings. 	RJ, CO, KO, RF, CO
5	Operational Matters <p>5.1 Library Folder system and numbering working well but there was an emerging problem with tracking and tracing the music which SS had borrowed from the old Voluntary Choir's library. JA will pursue this with SS.</p> <p>5.2 Social Media/Publicity Sarah D long term absent for personal reasons. n.b. Post the meeting ARn and MW agreed to take over responsibility for social media until such time as Sarah D wished to return.</p> <p>5.3 Website The website was running well and up to date as far as possible, It was reliant on others for information, for example, about forthcoming services.</p> <p>5.4 Membership Attendance is good and, with few exceptions and some absences due to illness and unforeseen circumstances, is in line with this term's Doodles. Auditions are progressing and there is every likelihood that there will soon be strengthened bass and alto lines.</p>	JA, SS ARn, MW MW, SS

<p>5.5</p>	<p>There is an urgent need for two first tenors. Recruitment campaign will be set up.</p> <p>Concert Management</p> <p>No activity at the moment apart from preparatory work for Kempsey and Sedgley. Evesham concert is in abeyance for the foreseeable future. Normally, at this time, planning cycle would be considering concerts and repertoire. Audience numbers for concerts which are being offered to the public are low.</p> <p>ARn reported that <i>these were difficult times</i> and that we were probably <i>miles off doing anything</i>. There was a need to restore audience confidence. The Elgar Festival was hoping to achieve this over the weekend of 2-5/06/2022 and will be staging a gala performance of <i>Spirit of England</i> on 04/06/22 (WCCC members will be invited to join the chorus).</p> <p>The above is the weekend of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations with bank holidays on 02/06/22 and 03/06/22. The WCCC is already scheduled to sing Evensong on 04/06/22 and eucharist and evensong on 05/06/22. These are likely to be prestigious occasions requiring the WCCC to be at its best.</p> <p>Choir members already have a summer 22 schedule but KO will alert them to the importance of this weekend and to do all they can to ensure that they are available and to join the festival chorus if they possibly can.</p>	<p>SS, KO</p> <p>CO</p> <p>ARn</p> <p>KO</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>What next?</p> <p>PB explained that with the WCCC coming out of lockdown now was the ideal time to <i>take stock</i> of where we are, establish a sense of where we are heading and make decision about what we might have to do to get there.</p> <p>He hoped that this would be the first of several discussions about such things. He was particularly keen to <i>push/explore the envelope</i> of the WCCC's role, particularly our new relationship with the Cathedral.</p> <p>During the ensuing wide-ranging discussion the following points emerged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was an excellent opportunity to identify, reflect and upon what we did well and what we weren't so good at. • There was no plan beyond the current year 21/22 apart from a possible recording in June/July 2022. Long term planning had stopped with the onset of Covid-19 lockdowns but now needs to be reinstated. • There was strong feeling that the new relationship with the Cathedral offered as yet unidentified opportunities for collaboration and development. • The range and scope of the WCCC's music making is ultimately determined by the Vision and Aims set out in the WCCC's ToR. • Members' principal reason for join the WCCC is to sing services in the Cathedral. • There was unanimous agreement that now was a good time to take stock. • Discussions about patronage with the Cathedral have halted pending the arrival of the new Precentor in January 2022, but it's an area that needs to be explored and exploited. • Committee succession planning was a major issue in the run-up to the 2021 AGM. We must make sure it's acted upon. <p>PB thanked all for their contributions and looked forward to continuing the discussion at the next meeting.</p>	<p>PB, All</p>

7	Future meetings KO will circulate a list of dates for the rest of the 21/22 meetings.	KO
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