

WCCC Virtual Committee Meeting 14th December 2021
Minutes

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

minute		Action
1	Welcome and apologies Apologies: Sam Hudson (SH), Anne Renshaw (AR)	
2	Minutes of meeting on 03/11/21 and Matters Arising Minutes unanimously agreed. Matters Arising All matters arising were dealt with in the main agenda.	
3	Covid-19 Update ER joined the meeting (ER is the Committee's volunteer, principal advisor on Covid-19 matters) There was a lengthy and detailed discussion about the possible impact on the choir of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. The following points emerged and decisions were made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee's duty of care for members is paramount. • There is a continuing need for vigilance and rigorous precautions. This is particularly important because of the demographic of the WCCC and the vulnerability of some of its members. • Current Covid mitigation arrangements and risks assessments have been reviewed and are fit for purpose. • The requirement that members do not to attend if they come into contact with Covid will continue. n.b. Members are adhering strictly to this code and thus helping to keep Covid out of the choir. • Masks will be worn at all times except when singing. • Social distancing at all times, must be adhered to. • Bottlenecks e.g. signing in and out and music distribution must be avoided. • Members will be asked to carry out a LFT before attending rehearsals and services. • Christmas venues have all been risk assessed n.b. KO has revisited Kempsey to recheck that there is sufficient space and has had confirmatory conversations with Curradine Barns to check that our requirements will be met. • KO will email all members, reminding them of the need to return to strict adherence of Covid mitigation procedures. • The Covid team (ER, HR, CO, KO) will <i>police</i> procedures. A suggestion from Phil C that rehearsals and services should be cancelled was carefully considered. It was unanimously agreed that singing should continue with the above mitigation arrangements in place, subject to regular review as and when more information and guidance about Omicron emerged. PB thanked ER for her work and she then left the meeting.	KO ER, KO, HR, CO
4	4.1 Operational Matters Library All music is now stored in alphabetical-composer order. There are 2 boxes of CDs in library which need to be got rid of. KO will provide JA with up-to-date membership list.	JA JA CO KO

<p>4.2</p>	<p>Social Media/Publicity ARn and MW dealing with Facebook and Twitter. There is little/no coverage of conventional publicity e.g. press releases. KO has made initial contact with Sarah Bowyer, the Cathedral's PR and Publicity Officer. An article (written by ARn) about WCCC will be in the Christmas edition of the Cathedral newsletter. KO will seek advice from Sarah on how best to improve/re-establish contact with local press/tv/radio etc. There is a need for more up to date publicity photographs.</p> <p>4.3 Website Content now includes an extract from Paviour's The Guest.</p> <p>4.4 Membership Attendance continues to be good, with few exceptions. Majority of absences are due to illness, Covid related problems and unforeseen circumstances. New members are settling in and the advert in the Cathedral newsletter has attracted one tenor application who will start his try-out on 13/01/22.</p> <p>4.5 Concert Management Nothing to report.</p> <p>4.6 Local Fundraising Nothing to report.</p>	<p>ARn, MW</p> <p>KO ARn</p> <p>SS, KO</p>
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>What next?</p> <p>Financial Report and Review Committee reviewed the choir's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I & E account for the period 01/04/21 to 30/11/21. • Actual and forecast budget figures for the current financial year (01/04/21 to 31/03/22). <p>The cash balance at 30/11/21 was £12385. The end of year forecast for the latter was virtually break even at -£93.</p> <p>There was unanimous agreement that the choir's finances were, given the current Covid dominated conditions in a good state. PB thanked RF and CO for their work and their clear and comprehensive explanations.</p> <p>A preliminary (Cathedral Services specific) budget for 2022/23 showed a small deficit of -£63. Detailed discussion highlighted (as in previous meetings) the fundamental importance of members subscriptions and the need to revisit the current amount (£75). General view was that the subscription might rise, at an appropriate future time, to £90, say, subject to the likely future programme needs and any increases in basic costs at the time. Subscriptions were not high compared with other choirs.</p> <p>A welcome addition to the 2022/23 budget was an anonymous monthly donation of £37.50 (including gift aid). It was agreed that this kind of income would greatly ease the financial situation and that ways and means of encouraging this sort of generosity should be developed.</p> <p>Planning in Covid-dominated times</p>	

	<p>KO, referring to the current 2021/22 schedule and the wide range of ideas and events in the pipeline, suggested that the time was still not right for the WCCC to schedule events beyond its Cathedral commitments. He believed that timescales, financial risks, the need to find sponsors and make best use of still developing relationships with the Cathedral were incompatible with the current <i>emerging from Covid</i> climate.</p> <p>After considerable discussion it was clear that there was unanimous agreement with the above and that the choir should, for the foreseeable future, focus on its primary role of singing services in the Cathedral.</p> <p>It was noted that choir morale was high and that given the majority of members primary commitment to sing services in the Cathedral, such a decision would be acceptable to them.</p> <p>it was agreed that because the Committee was preoccupied with pre-Christmas matters and Covid, any further detailed discussion about planning for a post-Covid future would be postponed until at least the next Committee meeting (26/01/22) when there was likely to be more time to deal with things.</p> <p>n.b. ARn in absentia, had, prior to the meeting, sent an email to KO which supported the above approach.</p>	PB, KO
	The meeting ended at 2110	