

Minutes of WCCC Annual General Meeting 28th September 2023

Present: Judith Aldridge, Sheilagh Armitt, Jenny Kettleton, Carole Oliver, Lynne Owens, Anne Renshaw, Sue Standford, Kevern Oliver, John Sands, Benedict Coleman, John Pare, Robert Poulson, Peter Brook, Bill Robinson, Robin Walker, Mark Wilson, Helen Randall, Stephen Shellard, Richard Holroyd, Lynne Reekes, Angela Smith, Sarah Cooke, Liz Forman, Deana Holdaway, Julia Maclagan, Jill Robinson, Tim Cox, Paul Mocroft, Phil Crowther.

Minute	
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies Chair Peter Brook welcomed members to the 2023 AGM.</p> <p>Apologies Linda Ayres, Sarah Donaldson, Sheila Davies, Bethan Holley, Laura Moss, Pammie Murray, Eileen Roberts, Peter Sheppard, Andrew Russell, John Paul Hopkins. Sarah Kings,</p>
2	<p>Minutes of 2022 Subject to a few minor amendments, which were agreed, adoption of the 2022 minutes and reports was proposed by Sue Standford and seconded by Liz Forman. Carried unanimously.</p>
3	<p>Chairman Peter Brook's report for 2022/23 was circulated before the meeting. There were no comments or questions. Adoption of the report was proposed by Carole Oliver and seconded by Julia Maclagan. Carried unanimously.</p>
4	<p>Director of Music Stephen Shellard's report for 2022/23 was circulated before the meeting. There were no comments or questions. Adoption of the report was proposed by Phil Crowther and seconded by Judith Aldridge Carried unanimously.</p>
5&6	<p>Treasurer Carole Oliver's Report (with accounts) was circulated before the meeting. There were no questions. The Gift Aid situation had been updated since Carole's initial report (resulting in updated accounts being circulated prior to the meeting), and therefore she wished to clarify the Choir's position on this (partly for the benefit of newer members): (1) She explained that the Cathedral's new auditors decided back in 2020 (when the choir was still independent of the Cathedral's systems), that it was illegal for the Cathedral to claim back Gift aid for WCCC when we maintained our own bank account. Therefore, WCCC became a full member of the Cathedral (following lengthy negotiations), and its funds were transferred to Cathedral (albeit ringfenced). The Cathedral has dealt with Gift Aid since, but WCCC is yet to receive a refund. However, Carole has now received definite confirmation from the Cathedral that £1925 is due to be returned to WCCC. Therefore that sum is now included in the accounts as a debtor, resulting in a healthy credit balance of £13596 to carry forward. (2) Brahms concert: Surplus made of £1288, of which £500 was donated to the Cathedral.</p>

Thanks were due to Anne Renshaw and another member who wished to remain anonymous who footed the cost of designing and printing the poster and programme. Thanks also to members who donated to the concert contribution scheme, which raised just under £1800 and ensured the concert's financial success.

Adoption of the report and accounts was proposed by Robert Poulson and seconded by Sue Standford.

Carried unanimously.

Subscriptions

Carole explained that in June, the Committee, after discussion, had recommended that the annual subscription should remain at £90 for 2023-24, and since then, all subscriptions have been paid.

However, Carole confirmed that a retrospective formal vote was needed at the AGM to approve the subscription.

This was proposed by Deana Holdaway and seconded by Judith Aldridge and **carried unanimously.**

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Elections to Committee for 2023/24

Lynne Reekes, as AGM Secretary for 2023, conducted the election of the Chairman.

Peter Brook was proposed as Chair (Choir officer) by Jill Robinson and seconded by Paul Mocroft.

There being no other candidates, and there being no objections, Peter Brook was appointed as chair for 2023/24. He then conducted the rest of the elections.

The following list of nominees, proposers and seconders, had been circulated prior to the meeting. All nominees (there being only one candidate for each post) were voted into office unanimously for 2023/24. They are as follows:

Nominee's name	Role	Proposer's name	Seconders name
Stephen Shellard	Musical Director (officer)	Not applicable	Not applicable
Samuel Hudson	Chapter Representative	Not applicable	Not applicable
Peter Brook	Chair (officer)	Jill Robinson	Paul Mocroft
Liz Forman	Secretary (officer)	Kevern Oliver	Lynne Reekes
Carole Oliver	Treasurer (officer)	Andrew Russell	Lynne Reekes
Jenny Kettleton	Librarian (member)	Lynne Owens	Bethan Holley
Anne Renshaw	Development Coordinator (member)	Lynne Owens	Jenny Kettleton
Helen Randall	Local Event Coordinator (member)	Peter Brook	Kevern Oliver
Sarah Donaldson	Publicity Coordinator (member)	Kevern Oliver	Carole Oliver
Carole Oliver	Concert Manager (member)	Andrew Russell	Lynne Reekes
Mark Wilson	Webmaster (member)	Jenny Kettleton	Bill Robinson

Co-option: Peter explained that, in the interest of continuity it was necessary for the new Committee to immediately co-opt two further members rather than waiting until the next Committee meeting to do so viz. Kevern Oliver who is to continue to be responsible for Membership matters, and Lynne Reekes, who will continue primarily as assistant to Carole .

	<p>The new Committee agreed unanimously to co-opt them both (which decision was endorsed by the general membership)</p>
8	<p>Chairman's Statement</p> <p>(i) Peter thanked the whole Committee en bloc for their work during a strenuous year, including all the hard work involved to putting on the (very successful) Brahms concert, and in planning for Kevern's succession.</p> <p>He thanked Judith for all her hard work as librarian over the years and presented her with a book token as a small sign of the choir's appreciation. He also thanked Mark Wilson, who is one of the unsung heroes, but who has worked (and continues to do so) behind the scenes to make the choir website attractive and a reliable source of valuable information for members.</p> <p>.</p> <p>(ii) Peter welcomed Jenny Kettleton as the new librarian, and Liz Forman as new Secretary (whom he particularly thanked for coming forward late on, when the vacancy was becoming a problem). New ways of working will evolve following Kevern's retirement as Secretary: Liz will work with other Committee members (e.g. Kevern on membership matters) and other choir members who will carry out certain tasks without formally being on the Committee e.g. Eileen Roberts, who will be taking charge of arrangements for future weddings.</p> <p>(iii) Following on from this – Kevern's retirement process was to start with the AGM. Stephen had expressed the whole choir's debt to him and Carole in his report, and his retirement will be marked more fully later in the year. Peter pointed out that it is now up to the rest of us to show Kevern that his good work will continue, and that Liz is fully supported in filling his shoes.</p> <p>(iv) Peter thanked Stephen for his continued guidance musically through the year and for giving us all some unforgettable musical experiences such as singing the Venables Requiem as part of the Elgar Festival.</p> <p>(v) Finally, the choir's 25th Anniversary year starts now, and will be a year for celebration. A number of key events have already been set out and others are under consideration.</p> <p>Any Other business.</p> <p>Robin Walker asked if the choir would be singing 9 Lessons and Carols at Sedgley this coming Christmas. Carole Oliver explained that 14/12/23 had been offered as date for us to sing and she was waiting for the vicar, who was on holiday at the moment, to reply. There were no comments made or questions raised.</p> <p>Jill Robinson thanked the choir for the friendly welcome from everyone when she joined its ranks. This drew warm appreciation from all.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.15pm</p>