

WCCC Committee Meeting 11th June 2025 held via Zoom
Minutes

Present: Sarah Donaldson, Liz Forman, Sam Hudson, Carole Oliver, Anne Renshaw, Stephen Shellard, Kevern Oliver for items 7.5-8 inclusive.

Item		Action
1	Welcome Apologies: Lynne Reekes (invited for items 4-5), Stephen Edwards (Dean) Our thanks go to Sam Hudson for joining us <i>pro tem</i> .	
2	Minutes The minutes of the last meeting (14/05/25) were confirmed as a correct record.	LF
3	Financial report 3.1 CO's report is as distributed beforehand. CO has had confirmation that we have been credited with the £400 fee for last year's NewsQuest Carol Service. She also reports that the general relationship between her and the finance department of the Cathedral is much better; e-mail exchanges are more friendly and informal. 3.2 The wedding discussed at the last meeting has not been confirmed as yet, they had said it was too expensive, so we went back with a slightly lower price, but have had no response to date. LF will chase in a couple of days. 3.3 The Gift Aid situation is gradually progressing in the right direction although is somewhat time-consuming for CO. She is hoping to have a face-to-face meeting with someone about this in due course. We are still no further forward with a login so CO can view the accounts.	LF CO
4	Himbleton Concert We are sold out! The programme has been finalised, and the timetable for the day has been issued to the choir. Dress code was discussed briefly – in particular a suggestion that women could wear a colourful piece of jewellery instead of the scarves. In the end it was agreed that we would stick to our normal concert dress. CO is going to have CDs available to sell too – 3 for £5.	CO
5	AGM LR has the reports and other papers ready to circulate this evening, including the updated ToR and appendices (for reference only), and the SGM minutes which need approving. The only thing outstanding is the schedule. It was agreed that although the September wedding is still a question mark, and the recording dates are still TBC (pencilled in with the recording company, booking requested with the Cathedral but not confirmed), the schedule can be issued as is for the moment. LF will send this to LR, and also to KO for	LF

	<p>WhenAvailable, Mark for the website and Eileen for rehearsal space booking.</p> <p>We are still not sure when we'll be able to get in to College Hall on the 26th, SH will try to clarify this for us.</p>	SH
6	<p>Freemason's Service</p> <p>Nick is accompanying us for this.</p> <p>SS has confirmed what we are singing; there are some changes from last time to include music we have sung recently: Elgar's Light out of Darkness, Stanford in C and the Byrd Responses.</p> <p>Rehearsal for this will be at 1330.</p>	
7	<p>Strategy/Future Planning Update</p> <p>7.1 The service schedule for the next academic year has now been confirmed, and the schedule is nearly ready to go as per comments above (item 5). SH informs us that he is undecided about whether WCCC are needed for the Tidings of Joy concert as yet, but will let us know by the end of the year.</p> <p>7.2 The possible wedding has still not been confirmed as per item 3.2. LF will chase as above.</p> <p>7.3 The 'adopt-a-carol' leaflet is ready to give out at the rehearsal tomorrow. SD/AR will talk about this at the break, and SH is also kindly coming at the end of the rehearsal to talk about the care needed re approaching people in the current climate, and in particular the need not to encroach upon possible sources of funding for the Cathedral.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the CD will be sold in the Cathedral shop, so at least some of the money made will go to the Cathedral, and that we are hoping to promote Worcester Cathedral and its music with the CD.</p> <p>7.4 The Dublin poll response is as per KO's briefing. There was a 50:50 split, which sadly is not sufficient commitment to move forward with the project as a choir. AR was thanked for all the work she has done on the project to date.</p> <p>The strategy group are now looking at a performance of the Bach B Minor Mass in 2027 instead, and SH reassured us that this wouldn't cause any problems with anything planned for the 3 Choirs Festival which is in Worcester that year.</p> <p>7.5a We are still no further forward with the 3 Cathedral Chamber Choirs event. SS is still waiting to hear back from Simon Harper (Hereford), and has chased him up. The strategy group has suggested that SD should make contact with the Chairs of the other 2 choirs to try and move things along from the organisational side.</p> <p>It was felt that early Autumn or early Spring would be a suitable time for such an event.</p> <p>SH commented that the 3 Cathedral Choir school choirs have done something similar recently too.</p> <p>b The suggestion of a small concert has been pushed back to Autumn 2026. The pros and cons of the different types of concerts were discussed, and the need to balance what we want to sing in terms of musical development and what audiences want. The Himbleton concert style is relatively easy for us to put on,</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>LF</p> <p>SD/AR SH</p> <p>SD</p>

	<p>but the audience has to be there!</p> <p>KO joined the meeting.</p> <p>c LF has written to Westminster Abbey to introduce herself and start the process of arranging a return visit. She has received a positive response from WA, weekends are booked up for 2026 although a weekday Evensong might be possible, and 2027 is beginning to book up. The Strategy group will discuss possible dates further and LF will then get back to WA.</p>	Strat. Group/LF
8	<p>Membership Update</p> <p>The numbers and make-up of the choir are as documented in KO's briefing paper.</p> <p>Following KO's suggestion, the committee approved the appointment of Fiona Izzard (alto) and Jonathon Pattrick (tenor) to the choir from September pending successful auditions. Deborah Knoxwatson (alto) would then go on the waiting list, again pending a successful audition.</p> <p>8.1 The re-evaluations are nearly complete, and have continued to go well and be a useful and positive experience. No-one has come near needing any remedial action. KO will produce a report on the feedback/suggestions from singers once all re-evaluations have been completed. Nothing has been raised to date that needs committee action.</p> <p>8.2 Three people are leaving at the end of term, and replacements are already lined up pending successful auditions.</p> <p>KO then left the meeting.</p>	KO
9	<p>Committee Structure Re-evaluation</p> <p>Following the last meeting LF has contacted those holding supporting roles for some more structured feedback.</p> <p>They are all happy with the way things are working, although there are some channels of communication which could be tightened up. It was agreed this could be discussed further in the new academic year.</p>	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>10.1 We are still looking for a new home for the choir's wine glasses and some CDs. SH confirmed there is no room for them in the Song School/Cathedral.</p> <p>10.2 As previously discussed it was agreed that we would have prosecco and cake after the Masonic service on 13/07/25. CO is happy to organise this and will ask for volunteers for cake in due course. SH was cordially invited to join us.</p>	CO
11	<p>Date of next meetings: 2000 on 01/10/2025</p> <p>19/11/25</p>	

