

Affiliated to Making Music

Registered Charity No. 288724

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2017**

**at 7.30 p.m. in the Hayloft, Lymington Centre**

**Present:** Shirley Hewitt Chairman

 Sheila Hammond Secretary

 Jill Hendey Fundraising

 Viv Parsons Publicity

 Ann Lewington Associate Members/Patrons

 Ann Blacklock Librarian

 Michael Goldthorpe Musical Director

 Maureen Askin Soprano Rep

 Chris Hobby Bass Rep

 Sue Rusling Alto Rep

Shirley welcomed prospective Committee members Karen Brett, Assistant Treasurer, and Barbara Warburton, Minutes Secretary.

1. **Apologies:** Nichola Kirby Treasurer

 Barry Kent Tenor Rep

 Tim Rice Accompanist

1. **Minutes of last meeting:** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 May were agreed.
2. **Matters Arising:** Michael asked whether Michael White had been asked to become an Associate Member; Shirley has this on her “to do” list, as well as Jacqui England.

Michael congratulated the publicity team on getting information about the last concert on Radio Solent.

Re: Item 6: Shirley confirmed that the Josephine Baker Trust grant had been awarded and she had written to thank them.

1. **Chairman’s Report (attached):** No-one had any comments to make on the document submitted. Shirley was pleased to announce that we had up to ten new members: three/four sopranos, two altos, three tenors and one bass, some had transferred from the Grange Choral Society. This brings membership up to 77; a new seating plan has been produced and lack of space may pose problems.

It was generally agreed that the popularity of LCS over other societies lay with the fact that there is a good atmosphere, experienced by both singers and audience. Chris added that our choice of music was appealing to a wide range of singers and listeners. Shirley acknowledged that Michael made rehearsals fun, which is, after all, why people join.

1. **Committee Structure:** Shirley explained that all Committee members are First Trustees, elected for two terms of three-years. This would mean all Trustees’ terms ending at the same time, so to ensure continuity, Chris, Nichola and Shirley had agreed to resign and be re-elected at the AGM in October, thus staggering the introduction of new Committee members. There is no need for the others to be nominated and seconded. She has prepared a schedule of retirements until 2025, and called for anyone else wishing to retire early to let her know. Karen and Barbara agreed to be nominated as Assistant Treasurer and Minutes Secretary respectively. The re-elections and elections will be announced and proposed at the AGM. Going forward, five Committee members would resign each year, in accordance with the Constitution.
2. **Musical Director’s Report:** Michael expressed his satisfaction at the increase in membership, and a good start to the term.

Seventeen orchestra members would be required for the Christmas Concert, at a cost of £2,140 at current rates (£110/rank and file player). Harpists and the leader are paid more. Five soloists are needed, although only four are funded by the Josephine Baker Foundation. The mezzo-soprano will be engaged from Trinity-Laban for a £200 fee. Children from Priestlands, Lymington Junior School (where the new head is very keen for the children to participate) and possibly Walhampton will also take part. Michael suggested that fees to rank and file orchestra members be increased to £115/£120, which would add £130 to expenses. This extra cost could possibly be covered by a Town Council grant, which must be for a specific purpose. They could possibly sponsor the harpist. Chris pointed out that the Society’s income had increased from £5,141 to £6,160 with the additional new members. Shirley and Michael pointed out the importance of maintaining a high standard, keeping subscriptions low and the musicians happy so that they will continue to make themselves available to us.

Shirley proposed that LCS pay rank and file musicians £120 each for the Christmas concert. The leader, timpanist and harpist, all specialist players, would be paid by individual arrangement. This was seconded by Chris and agreed unanimously. It was noted that Barry and Nichola were absent for the vote; Shirley would advise them.

For the XMAS Concert, he would like the church from 12.00 noon on the day of the concert. Viv raised the subject of the heating;

**Action:** Shirley and Sheila will press the church to ensure that the heating is on for rehearsals and does not go off before the end of the concert.

Shirley advised that we would not have access to the Wellington Room until 7.30 on 1 December, but could stay after 9.30 if necessary.

1. **French Visit Invitation: 18 – 20/21 May** A total of 37 people had expressed an interest in travelling to Vitré. Karen undertook to obtain quotes from a local Coach company, including the ferry fare, which, when divided by the number of participants, would give the cost per head. Poole-Cherbourg and Portsmouth-Caen would both be included.

 David Parsons**,** a very valuable member, sends his apologies**.** Some members may prefer to fly: it may be possible for the Vitré people to collect them from Rennes Airport. Viv asked if it would be possible for the whole group to fly. Karen will find out costs. LCS would be singing with the Vitré choir, possibly performing the Pergolesi, Caldara and Elgar songs. Shirley has invited Tim Rice and Tony Lowman. Michael said that Alan Ford (Brockenhurst choir and New Forest Orchestra) could help out if required.

 The Vitré twinners would be happy to accommodate choir members.

Michael advised that there would be an extra Wednesday after the Spring concert to rehearse the ladies.

1. **Treasurer’s Report:** The final version has been amended to show the full names of Committee members, and that there is a surplus, not a deficit. “The National Federation of Music Societies” has been changed to “Making Music” throughout. Spelling of Trinity Laban has been corrected. Chris pointed out that receipt from Gift Aid had gone down, and asked that members be urged to sign up for this. Barbara said that the rules had changed in the last budget, with more dividends now being tax-free, which made many ineligible. Chris said that subscription income could increase by £1,000 if membership growth continued. Concert income had increased by £1,000, thanks to the choice of repertoire and publicity. He said that the reserves of c.£13,000 would soon be depleted is fundraising efforts did not continue. Shirley said that the new Town Clerk was focusing on reasons for grant applications; Michael suggested that we ask them to sponsor the harp at the concert. Jill added that grants must be in respect of special projects, and be of benefit to the community, with a charitable, not entertainment purpose.

**Action:** All to consider what purpose the grant could be applied for.

Michael asked when LCS Diamond Anniversary would be; this could be cause for future grants.

Shirley pointed out that our returns to the Charity Commission showed increased spending year on year.

Maureen asked whether we wanted to do a Milford Lunch next year; affirmative. It was suggested that next year’s event should be in July but if that was not possible, then it should be in the autumn. More help was needed and local volunteers would be recruited, as well as Jill and Sheila. Dessert-makers and volunteer cooks also needed. The cost is fixed by Milford Community Centre. Chris pointed out that the raffle was essential for raising funds.

 The accounts were approved with amendments and were ready to be passed to the independent examiner.

1. **Publicity:** A separate report was tabled. All choir members who help promote the concert have been emailed. All newspapers/free magazines have been emailed except the Daily Echo, which will be done shortly. Details have been added to the usual websites, e.g. Lymington.com, Making Music – MG to do Cadenza etc. Viv asked that the posters and banners be produced as soon as possible.

It was agreed that a smaller banner was better at Moore Blatch. Viv would investigate the possibility of having a banner at the roundabout on Gosport Street, with the help of Wilf Adams. An ad would be put in the Lymington Times I November, in the form of a “save the date” box, and possibly also in the “Gig Guide”. Viv would draft an email for Sheila to send to LCS members asking them to forward details of the concert to their contacts. Permission was needed to use people’s email addresses. It was suggested that a form be put in the programme, with a prize for a lucky number. Jill put concert details in church magazines, and Viv covered St Thomas’s.

1. **Other Reports: Fundraising:** The Spring Fayre had produced an excellent result. Sheila said that she had obtained a large amount of material from a friend’s house. The plant stall had been outstanding. The date for next year’s Fayre is 5 May.

 **Librarian:** Ann B has ordered 80 copies of music for the Spring concert. The Mozart and Pergolesi had arrived, she was waiting for the Caldara. Additional copies of the Vivaldi had been obtained, but they were a different edition, and did not have bar numbers.

**Associate Members:** Ann L has written letters to Associate members including details of the AGM. Various people were suggested as prospective Associate members: Lou Gregory, Frank and Jill Gregory, Bill Darley.

1. **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be the AGM on 18 October at 7.00 p.m.

 The next Committee meeting will be on 16 January 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.11 p.m.