Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Steventon Choral Society held on Thursday 7th September 2023 in Steventon Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Caroline Miller Chairman

Helen Pearce Secretary

Fran Brightman Treasurer

Trish Napper Committee Member

Julia Haines Membership Secretary

Abby Evans Publicity

Terry Pearce Musical Director

Robert Thomas Pianist

Debbie West Assistant Conductor

33 Members

1. APOLOGIES

Diana Bowder & Paula Mcloughlin

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 8th September 2022 at 7.30pm in Steventon Village Hall were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2b. MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY AGM

The minutes of the extra ordinary AGM held on Saturday 10th June 2023 at 7.20pm in Steventon Village Hall Attended by the Committee (as above and 24 members) were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

4. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chairman reported on the Fund Raising and Social Events held during the past year including a Christmas Coffee Morning and an end of Season Quiz night and Supper. She stressed the importance of the social events and how good it has been to get back to some normality after the restrictions of the Covid epidemic. This also included a trip to the Royal Albert Hall to sing Messiah.

The Chairman thanked :

Helen Pearce for organising the Trip to Messiah at RAH and Birthday Cards for every member.

Joyce Huddleston as Retiring Website manager

Howard Feather for agreeing to become Website Manager

Sharron Jenkinson & Patricia Sadler for running the monthly raffles

Ann Cannon for producing buttonholes for concerts

All the members for help with providing and preparing food for concerts

The Committee for their hard work behind the scenes

Finally, The Chairman thanked on behalf of the Society Robert Thomas (Pianist), Terry Pearce (Musical Director) and Debbie West (Assistant Conductor) stressing how lucky the society is to have them and welcomed members to the new season.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

The signed report and signed copy of the audited accounts is attached to the file copy of the minutes. This was available to all members at the meeting. The Accounts were independently reviewed by Paul Haines proposed as a true record by Sharron Jenkinson seconded by Patricia Sadler and agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer updated the members on the application for Charitable Status which has now been successfully approved.

Julia Haines & Fran Brightman briefed members on how the gift aid would work and be applied.

Members asked questions regarding backdated gift aid and a reserves policy. It was agreed that in time the new Constitution could go onto the website.

Thanks were passed on to Paul Haines for reviewing the accounts.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Committee proposed that subs remain as they are at £80 per year.

Some discussion took place and Howard Feather proposed the Subs be increased by 10% to £88. This was seconded by Julia Haines and a vote took place as follows:-

31 Members voted in favour of the increase

6 Members voted against the increase

5 Members abstained.

Therefore the motion was carried and the Subs were increased to £88 per annum

It was pointed out that this amount does not have to be paid in full immediately and can be split into 2 6 monthly payments.

7. MUSICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Musical Director welcomed members back to the 64th Season of the Society and his 43rd report as Musical Director.

The MD felt it had been a good year musically and is pleased to see that audiences are getting back to pre covid numbers. The Christmas concerts had gone well. Mozart’s Requiem on Palm Sunday was an excellent performance and he congratulated the Society Soloists and Guest Leslie Macleod Miller not to mention the brilliance of Robert Thomas on the organ ably assisted by Debbie West on the Keyboard.

A Coronation Concert took place in May shortly followed by two Summer Showtime Concerts.

The MD then announced his proposals for the forthcoming year. As well as Christmas and summer Concerts in the Village Hall the major work this year will be Handel’s Messiah. He is particularly keen to do this as it may be one of the last times he conducts this major work.

The MD then thanked the Officers and Committee for all their hard work and support. His Music Team Robert, Debbie and Helen but most of all the members for their loyalty and support not to mention wonderful singing.

Finally, the MD thanked Trish Napper as retiring Libarian for the wonderful job she has done and for never grumbling when he asked for more music.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Proposed Seconded

CHAIRMAN Caroline Miller Joyce Huddleston Frances Broadbent

SECRETARY Helen Pearce Sharron Jenkinson Edward Dann

TREASURER Fran Brightman Julia Haines Debbie West

All members voted unanimously in favour of the above appointments.

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Abby Evans, Julia Haines and Trish Napper were proposed by Sharron Jenkinson. Seconded by Patricia Sadler and voted onto the committee unanimously

Barbara Price was proposed by Helen Pearce Seconded by Trish Napper and voted onto the Committee unanimously. Barbara agreed to take on the role of Librarian.

10. HALL PREPARATION

Members willing to help with Hall Preparation were asked by Abby Evans to put their names on a list.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. GDPR

Julia Haines told members that they would all need to sign updated GDPR forms in order to cover regulations.

B. CHARITABLE STATUS

Forms to be completed with the GDPR forms.

C. RAFFLE

Sharron Jenkinson and Patricia Sadler are finding the raffle a little difficult nowadays. Therefore

Julia Haines agreed to run the monthly raffle with Patricia’s assistance when needed.

D. ATTENDANCE

Caroline Miller pointed out to members the importance of regular attendance to rehearsals.

The meeting closed at 20.24 and the Chairman invited members to enjoy a drink.