

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY

Tuesday 11 August 2015 18:30

15 Gibson Square, N1 0RD

ATTENDEES: Richard Miles (Chair)
Andrea Buchanan (Secretary)
Neil King (Treasurer)
Margaret Murphy (MMu)
Geoffrey Griffiths

APOLOGIES Gilly Wyn-Thomas
Roger Lee
Edward Hewitt

NO RESPONSE Charlie Furness Smith

The meeting opened at 18:45 and was declared quorate.

Item 1: Apologies for absence

These were received from GW-T, RL and EH. No communication had been received from CFS.

Item 2: Approval of minutes 22 April

The minutes of 22 April were approved without further comment.

Item 3: Chair's Report

The Chair noted the resignation of Henry Kennedy from his post as Webmaster.

Item 4: Proposal for Honorary Membership

Following a written proposal received from Malcolm Rivers that the Committee consider granting Mike Morgan, the former Treasurer, honorary membership of the Society, this was agreed unanimously. Mike had taken over the accounts at a time of great difficulty for the Society and had made an enormous contribution to rectifying the situation and to laying the groundwork for the regular and transparent reporting and increased governance that are in place today.

Item 5: Motion for minutes of this and future committee meetings to be made available to all members

This motion was proposed by the Secretary and was seconded by the Treasurer. A short discussion followed, noting that, in the interests of transparency, it would be helpful to publish the minutes of Committee meetings on the website for members who had logged in to read. This would apply from today and for all future meetings. In accordance with good practice however, minutes would need to be formally approved by the Committee at the following meeting before publication.

The motion was adopted.

Item 6: New members for approval

7 new members were approved unanimously by the Committee.

Item 7: Budget Update

The Treasurer presented the latest budget information, noting that we were in credit by a modest surplus. Income was behind budget, as was expenditure.

The Treasurer was still working on obtaining an electronic banking facility and to this end a new mandate had been signed by the officers.

The printing and postage costs for Wagner News were discussed with the general objective of keeping these as reasonable as possible. The print runs would be examined carefully, and as many electronic copies would be sent as possible. The number of copies required had fallen, as the Society would no longer send out Wagner News to members who had not renewed their membership fees for this and former years.

A new process for signing off print runs was discussed and adopted. Henceforth the officers would authorise and sign off the print run for each future edition of Wagner News.

Item 8 Motion re Bank Mandate

This item was no longer required, as the mandate had already been signed by the officers of the Society.

Item 9: Mastersingers

It was agreed that a meeting, should be set up between the Chair and Malcolm Rivers, Artistic Director of the Mastersingers to discuss the current and future relationship. The

Committee had received a helpful email from David Edwards following the AGM and the Chairman would respond to this.

Item 10: Website

Following the go-live of the updated site, there had been several issues with the website and work on addressing these was ongoing. Simon Empson, a new member with highly relevant experience of web design and optimisation had offered to assist the Committee with this matter by liaising with the designer and would be invited to attend the next Committee meeting.

There followed a discussion on the relative merits of Paypal and Stripe for effecting on-line payment of memberships, and the security aspects of both systems. In the end, it was decided that both systems were fully robust and that both the members and the Society could have faith in the security of their data. No financial information was held on the Society's website and we were therefore indemnified against potential fraud thereby. The Committee, having initially inclined towards replacing Stripe with Paypal, decided to remain with Stripe.

Item 11: Wagner News

The Committee noted the appointment of Roger Lee, Editor of Wagner News, to the board of the Mastersingers, that had taken place in May.

Item 12: Events

The Events Manager, GW-T, had submitted a list of future events for Committee approval. These included a couple of lectures, a study day on Tannhäuser to coincide with the ROH revival in 2016, the usual Rehearsal Orchestra and Singing Competition events, in addition to some purely social get-togethers, beginning with the Christmas party, and with a possible quiz night to be held in conjunction with some other music clubs. The highly popular President's Masterclass would also be repeated in 2016. Further to comments at the AGM, it was important to strike a balance between educational events, recitals and social gatherings.

The Committee approved all the suggestions put forward by the Events Manager and some of these would be noted in the next Wagner News.

Item 13: Any Other Business

The date for the Christmas social event was discussed and would be publicised shortly, once confirmed.

The meeting ended at 21:30