

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY 20 March 2018 18.30 – 21:00

15 Gibson Square, London N1 0RD

ATTENDEES: Neil King (Treasurer) (“NGK”) In the Chair
Cormac Cawley (Secretary) (“CTC”)
Ray Godson (“RG”)
Alan Ridgewell (“AR”)
Meli Hatzihrysidis (“MH”)
Henry Kennedy (“HK”).
Nick Kohn (“NNK”)

APOLOGIES Richard Miles (Chair) (“RM”)
Geoffrey Griffiths (“GG”)

IN ATTENDANCE

The meeting opened at 18:30 and was declared quorate, there being present at least one officer and other committee members constituting at least one third of the total committee membership. In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Treasurer.

Item 1: Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from RM and GG.

Item 2: Approval of minutes of meeting on 21 February 2018

The minutes of the meeting on 18.01.2018 were approved with some brief suggestions and clarifications, which had been sent to CTC by NGK by e-mail beforehand.

On matters arising RG stated that he expected everyone attending the strategy meeting at his home to travel down on Friday for a 10am start on the Saturday, 08.09.2018. He would also like is to agree an agenda for the meeting well in advance.

Item 3: Chairman’s Report

There was no chairman’s report.

Item 4: Treasurers Report, Budget & Annual Accounts

NGK reported. He had sent the last month’s accounts to everyone by e-mail before the meeting. We are behind budget, but we are not in a loss-making situation. We

need to get to the end of April by when we shall have received the money for the Bayreuth Ballot tickets. Otherwise we were almost to the penny on income as per the budget. The annual accounts are now ready to be signed by NGK and RM and can then be sent out to members.

Item 5: Media, Advertising, Twitter & Facebook (“MATF”)

AR reported that he was working with a student who did have (but no longer has) time to help us. AR is speaking to the student’s mother who has agreed to take over and help us. She will be sending through her ideas to AR shortly. She will give some branding guide for small organisations and AR will also ask her about web-designing. The meeting agreed that we needed to work out a strategy to improve on the website as a matter of urgency. RG offered to speak to one of his suppliers who knows this area. HK said that we needed to sort these issues out quickly, so we can improve on ticket sales.

There was mixed support for us having leaflets about the society on chairs at our events.

The meeting agreed to form a committee of NNK, MH HK, & AR to deal with MATF.

It was agreed that Isabella would be invited to come to our next meeting and that we would pay her travel expenses for that.

Item 6: Wagner News including cost of advertising

AR was reported. He would like us to set prices for advertising in WN and by Mailchimps to our members.

He expects next edition of WN to go out in May.

Item 7: General Data Protection Regulation

RG agreed to review the position with the GDPR and do a paper for the next meeting.

Item 8: Written Decisions Byelaws

CTC reported a written decision had been made on 19.03.2018 to include a new AGM byelaw number 3.

Item 9: Byelaws Update

The meeting considered and resolved (with one abstention) to make further amendments to the recently introduced AGM Byelaw 3 by replacing it with new wording and by adding new AGM Byelaws 4 & 5.

Item 10: Bayreuth Ballot for 2018

CTC reported that he had received 48 Ballot Slips so far. HK agreed to put the ballot on FB and Twitter.

Item 11: Membership Report

NGK had sent around the UpToDate numbers by e-mail before the meeting. There would be a small reduction in numbers next month when the three-month grace period for payment of year-end subs had passed.

Item 12: Events Officer's Report

HK reported as follows.

The Negus event had gone very well. The meeting congratulated HK on his work on the event. RG asked that it be minuted that the cheese at the Negus event was very good indeed!

HK mentioned that he was hoping to have an event with Anthony Pappano in September

There would also be an event with Stefan Vinke in September.

He was also hoping to have a round table discussion on The Ring in September.

MH mentioned arranging an event involving Sara Lenton.

HK mentioned that DAE wants to get together in May to discuss the Singing Competition (???). We need a decent acoustic and piano if we are not to have the SC at the ROSL.

Item 13: Society's Libraries of Recordings and Books and donations to same

The meeting considered what to do with donations of CDs and DVDs. It was agreed that rather than adding them to the Society's library (of which Andrew Burton was the very generous custodian) such items would be offered to members at the following prices: -

£4, £8, £12 and £16 for single double, triple and 4 set boxes.

CTC also mentioned the Rosenthal Plates which had been very generously donated by Magda Reid. It was agreed that these would be offered to members and that to kick start this process CTC would prepare the lists of Jorge's CDs and they would be sent to members.

Item 14: "Wagner 1900" Conference.

It was agreed that HK would chase ASK about our advertising copy for the event.

Item 15: Wagnerstimmen Competition

CTC reported that this was in progress and that we would be supporting the applications of Syzmon Wach and Erika Jones.

Item 16: Honorary Memberships & Alumni

Following the decision of the committee that Honorary Memberships would be bestowed upon all previous years' Singing Competition judges as well as all former Goodall Award Winners, RM was taking this forward and had sent out requests to all judges and winners. Catherine Foster will be added to the list of Goodall Winners on the website.

It was not clear if Peter Katona had ever responded to our offer of HM.

Item 17: Constitutional Sub-committee

NGK expressed the view that we needed to have a new Constitution as there were many gaps to be filled, some of which had just been dealt with by the making of new Byelaws.

It was agreed to address this after the AGM.

Item 18: Catering Committee

CTC reported that Catherine Dobson had sent an e-mail recently and that we would need to respond to her concerns and make progress on having more support for catering.

NGK reported that arranging the catering between himself, AR and HK wasn't so much work as all that!

Item 19: Archive Catalogue from GG

RG reported that he had been to GG's house and that GG was holding a substantial amount of material which need to be moved. RM will write to GG about what needs to be moved and RG will come and collect it.

Item 20: AOB

CTC agreed to try and produce draft Minutes of meetings within 7 days.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 21:00

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 17 April

Monday 14 May

AGM 16 May 2018