

Phoenix Singers AGM 2011

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 12th October 2011 at Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Framlingham.

The meeting opened at 8.35pm.

Present: John Francis (Chairman), Maggie Smith (Treasurer), Edmond Fivet (M.D.) Kaye Dawe (Minutes) and 45 other members.

1. Apologies for absence. Anthony Chapman, Michael Dawe, Jane Slade, Liz Hamilton, Colin Hamilton, Gill Clare.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 13th October 2010 were proposed to be adopted as a correct record by Stephanie Askew, seconded by Gillian Howell, and signed by the Chairman.
3. The Chairman's Report had been circulated earlier to members and will be attached to minutes. Discussion of the report was taken under any other business.
4. The Treasurer's Report had been circulated earlier. Its adoption was proposed by Maggie Smith and seconded by Marion Banyard. The Financial Independent Examiner had drawn attention to the £5,000 loss this year and reminded committee members of their liability if funds could not cover costs. MS herself highlighted the lack of advertising revenue from the programmes, and the fact that soloists and orchestra costs inevitably rose annually.
5. The Musical Director's Report. A full report had been circulated earlier by Edmond Fivet. He again highlighted the fact that in view of the choir's financial constraints, he considered that this coming year's programme was fortunate. There would always be a concert loss when performing in Framlingham Church, with a balanced orchestra, as it was impossible to get more than 247 in the audience. The informal concert in the Spring and the shared concert with AMC at Snape would be less costly. He also felt the choir benefited from the excellent young soloists and orchestral players and that the choir would have difficulties sustaining a full concert without an orchestra. Overall he had enjoyed the past year and was happy to lead a non auditioned choir and was extremely grateful for all the stalwart work put in by Jonathan Rutherford. He also thanked John Francis for all his work over the past 3 years.
6. Election of Chairman, Secretary and other Committee members The following were elected unanimously:
Chairman, Gillian Howell – proposed by John Francis, seconded by Anthony Chapman.
Secretary, William Glasse – proposed by Anthony Chapman, seconded by John Francis.
Vice Chairman remains unfilled at present. Liz Page, who had served her 6 years agreed to stand for a further 3 years. This was proposed by John Francis and seconded by Geraldine Smith.
Stage Manager was still required, though this position does not need to be filled by a committee member.

7. Any Other Business. John Francis, as requested, had received some thoughtful emails in response to his report on the current financial and membership problems. To summarise, some felt that the choir had lost its strong local identity and independence. The repertoire was less focussed on the voice and more on large orchestral works. Members clearly enjoyed the chance to sing larger works at Snape.

Liz Page said that the orchestra currently in use is no bigger than in earlier years.

Balancing the books has become even harder recently. Fundraising, sponsorship and increased revenue from advertising would help the choir. Some other ideas were forthcoming:-
2 concerts yearly only.

“Bring a Friend” evening rehearsal, to increase possible membership.

Arrange with EADT for better advanced publicity.

Try to arrange with EADT to review concerts.

Annual concerts with AMC, as costs are shared pro-rata thus reducing our loss.

Use of local soloists to encourage their followers into the audience.

Return to regular Carol concert without school children.

Raise the profile of the choir locally at events, ie late night shopping, by use of a small singing group

Contact past members to determine reasons for leaving.

8. Gillian Howell thanked John Francis for all his hard work as Chairman in the last 3 years.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed(Chairman)