**Knotanotherchoir**

**AGM: Thursday 1st November 2018**

**Location: Forest Room, COGS, Gracious Street**

**Minutes:**

**Present:**

**Committee:**

Julie Dodson

John Bradbury-Sharp

Julie Bradbury-Sharp

Rachael Dobson

Di Taylor

Jane Rutledge

**Choir members present:**

Janet

Heather

Connie

Claire

Pam T

Pam W

Pauline

Judith

Kathy

Chris N

Beatrice

Sally H

Pippa

Graham

**Apologies:**

Val

The meeting took place during the October half term 2018. Julie welcomed everyone there and opened the meeting. As some new members were attending, the committee and all members present introduced themselves.

The Agenda had been circulated previously.

Papers circulated at the meeting: Minutes from 2017 AGM, Financial Review 2017/18,

The previous AGM Minutes were agreed and accepted.

**1 Matters Arising:**

Jane gave feedback on the survey responses from the previous year, when the Committee had met with Lorraine to go through the findings. It was reiterated that the responses had been largely very positive, and Lorraine was pleased.

All concerns and comments that had been recorded were shared with Lorraine who accepted the findings, and all present agreed that during the past year Lorraine had shown much sharper focus and commitment. This has been much appreciated and recognised by everybody. The Committee explained that they would try to meet termly with Lorraine to review progress throughout the year.

Pam W felt that our appreciation should be recorded on the website.

Pam T appreciated how well the MD managed to pull all voices together.

**2 Application for Charitable Status:**

John explained we were still at the beginning of the process which, once completed should hopefully ensure some benefits.

Presently the choir runs as a non-profit making company and as a result is accountable for public liabilities.

John and Julie B-S had been on a course guided by Community First Yorkshire (CFY) to explain how to progress further. CFY are able to secure grants and help the application process, with a view to securing the recommended status of a Community/Charity Interest Organisation = CIO.

Policies and Risk Assessment documentation would be needed, but once established the choir would be able to apply for funds etc.

We would be unable to claim Gift Aid as the CIO would have Directors/Members.

**3 Financial Review:**

John talked through the finances.

There was a slight loss, but there had been slight increased expenditure eg more events, scarves, leaflets, laminating and printing, other sundries. etc.

For the first time the choir had taken out our own liability re the MD.

A weekly expense of the Room hire and MD fees meant that attendance needed to be 26+ in order to cover this.

Donations were made to our nominated charity Multiple Sclerosis and to the Food Bank.

**4 Forthcoming Events:**

Julie B-S talked through the term’s remaining events:

23rd November Bright Friday - Market Place

1st December Afternoon singing at the Christmas Tree Festival – St John’s Church

9th December Closing Christmas Concert – St John’s Church

15th December Harlow Carr Gardens

19th December Manor care Home

20th December Choir Christmas Party

Julie also mentioned the Spring Concert that would again take place at Holy Trinity Church.

One or two members expressed concern about date commitments during school holidays which may impact on some with family responsibilities.

Two events had been cancelled this year. (Meeting with Honest Singers of Musselbrough in Newcastle) and summer singing at Harlow Carr.

The choir sung at FEVA but as only small numbers of members were available to sing, this was less successful and would not be repeated.

Julie and John explained that attendance tended to reduce every summer after the Street Choir events; discussions took place about the summer term finishing earlier and returning back later, but those present indicated that they would like things to remain as they are at present with the understanding that sessions would focus on refreshing older favourites and introducing newer material, albeit attendance would be rather erratic.

**5 AOB:**

* Janet again has organized the Knot Another Tree entry into the Christmas Tree Festival – workshops to take place during November.
* Following questions received from choir members, further discussion took place about the choice of material selected. It was emphasized that the choice was solely that of the MD and that this responsibility was presently written into the contract.

(NB Committee has already begun early discussions about reviewing the contract).

* Some members wanted the next sessions’ song choices to be made available earlier than the present bulletin which arrives on a Thursday in order to practice at home. Lorraine emails her information on a Thursday night.

Pauline said she would endeavour whenever possible to circulate the bulletin earlier, but due to work commitments this was not always possible. Overwhelmingly most members felt the 2 days were sufficient.

* It was calculated that the choir presently has around 40 acapella songs, and there was a strong feeling that these should be revisited more frequently, as well as introduce a lighter selection so that the choir maintained a good mix.
* Some members expressed reservations when asked to perform without music/words.
* Graham suggested a ballot box for people to select their preferred songs.
* The Committee was thanked for their work during the year

Julie D as Chair thanked everyone present for attending the meeting and for supporting the choir.

The Meeting was closed.