

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WATFORD PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

HELD ON MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 PM AT WATFORD GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sandra Di Paolo, Kay Leyshon and Stephanie Luxford.

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The AGM considered a verbal report by the Chairman, Marian Heath. Marian thanked the committee and all the volunteers without whose efforts the Society would not be able to function. In particular, she offered David Pollak (who was taking over as Chairman) her best wishes.

Marian explained that she had stepped down from the choir because a throat infection had left her unable to sing. She added she intended maintaining her links with WPS via the medium of the Friends. The report, having been duly proposed and seconded, was unanimously approved.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 12th OCTOBER 2015

Accuracy: Noted long service awards had been presented to the Mackenzie-Corbys (not Corbys). Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the above AGM, having been duly proposed and seconded were unanimously approved as a correct record.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The meeting considered a written report by the Secretary, Kate Wilkins, that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The report, having been duly proposed and seconded, was unanimously approved.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The meeting considered a report and accounts for July 2015 to June 2016 that had been circulated in advance with the agenda by the Treasurer Geoff Williams. Geoff advised the AGM that there was an inaccuracy in the accounts and that WPS had made a loss in 2015/16 of £1,405. Geoff confirmed that this information had been provided to the auditor and that she had signed off the accounts. The report, having been duly proposed and seconded was unanimously approved.

6. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR

The AGM considered a verbal report from the Treasurer, Geoff Williams. Geoff informed the AGM that Amanda Dean was prepared to remain as the honorary auditor. Therefore, having been duly proposed and seconded, Amanda Dean was appointed as the honorary auditor for 2016-2017. Geoff added that he was pleased that Amanda Dean was staying on as the auditor as there were big changes afoot for charities.

7. ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

The following members of the society, having been duly proposed and seconded, were elected unopposed to the committee for a two year term:

Chairman	David Pollak	Secretary	Audrey Adams
Treasurer	Paul Buckley	Concert Planning Co-ordinator	Graham Wheeler

No nominations were received for the post of Vice Chairman or Social Activities Co-ordinator.

David Pollak paid tribute to Marian Heath, the retiring Chairman, and presented her with a bouquet and tickets for the forthcoming season's concerts. He also thanked the retiring Treasurer, Geoff Williams and the retiring Secretary, Kate Wilkins, who is to undertake a fundraising role. He also noted the contributions of Judy Newton-Davies and John Jefkins. He went on to welcome Audrey Adams and Paul Buckley to the Committee, and announced that Tim Pettigrew would be co-opted on to the Committee as a possible Vice Chairman.

8. PREVIEW OF COMING SEASON

David Pollak announced that the summer concert would be an orchestral concert only, to be staged at the Clarendon Muse. It had been decided that Bushey Academy was unsuitable as a concert venue, so future concerts would remain at the Colosseum until at least 2018.

Michael Cayton congratulated the Choir on their performances during the previous season. His aim for the coming season was to build on this success and increase audiences. He hoped his rebalancing initiative would produce a richer sound, though he acknowledged it had also resulted in some seating upheavals. He planned to hold some training sessions before rehearsals.

9. LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Marian Heath presented long service awards to Jessie Clack (25 seasons), Pamela Barker (40 seasons), Catherine Jex (50 seasons) and Gillian Williams (50 seasons)

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were questions about Saturday workshops (David Pollak said more were planned) and involvement with the Peace Hospice (members of the Choir took part in the Lights of Love ceremony and also sang carols for Oxfam).

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Stephanie Mallett reminded everyone to support the Choir's Facebook page. Stephanie and webmaster Liz Defries were thanked for their efforts. Some of the altos complained they had difficulty in hearing Michael's directions. It was agreed this problem would be addressed.

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm.