

## **MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WATFORD PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**

**HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 AT 8.30PM VIA ZOOM**

The AGM was postponed from October 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom, with members dialling in from their homes.

### **1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman, David Pollak, welcomed members to the meeting. 72 members attended, and there were no apologies for absence.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted as an accurate record.

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman, David Pollak, had submitted his Report in advance. As it was his final report as Chairman, he wished to add his thanks to all the members for their unfailing support throughout his tenure. He received a round of virtual applause. There were no questions.

### **4. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A report written by Audrey Adams and detailing the activities of the Society during the 2019-20 season was approved by the meeting.

### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Paul Buckley presented a very comprehensive financial report which had been circulated before the meeting. The choir had 116 members, who were enjoying reduced subscriptions for the current season because of the lack of expenditure on concerts. Paul explained he had not been able to prepare budgets for the present season because of the continuing uncertainty about the Society's activities. He would do so when the situation became clearer. There were no questions. David Pollak paid tribute to Paul's efforts as Treasurer, and there was further virtual applause.

### **6. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Paul Buckley invited the meeting to re-appoint Mr Ronnie Jacobs of LPS Livingstone as the Society's Independent Examiner. The motion was proposed by Pam Allanson, seconded by Denise Wellham and passed unanimously.

## **7. MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Michael Cayton had submitted a written report on the musical events of the previous year, particularly the Zoom rehearsals. He had feared for the Society's future when lockdown had resulted in the suspension of normal rehearsals, but the members had adapted successfully to the challenges of Zoom. He was immensely gratified they had continued to attend on Monday evenings. Michael also paid tribute to retiring Chairman David Pollak, who had given him unqualified support in every respect. David reciprocated, describing Michael as the best possible Conductor and Musical Director. The Society was in safe hands. More applause.

## **7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Three nominations had been received for the three vacant committee posts. Paul Buckley was proposed as Treasurer by Nikki Hind and seconded by Judy Newton-Davies. Audrey Adams was proposed as Secretary by Nikki Hind and seconded by Judy Newton-Davies. Both were duly re-elected. David Pollak was obliged to stand down as Chairman having completed the maximum term allowed. Pam Allanson was proposed as Chairman by David Pollak, seconded by Audrey Adams and duly elected. Accepting the nomination, Pam first of all thanked David for all his hard work, especially during the last year, and produced a large bottle of champagne for him, to be delivered when circumstances allowed. He would be a hard act to follow. Pam said she regarded the pandemic as an opportunity to take the Society forward, though lots of imponderables remained. She hoped live rehearsals would resume at WGGs in September and announced provisional dates for a workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> July and concerts on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> December. The Colosseum would not be available. Finally she appealed for help with publicity as it was essential to promote the activities of the Society professionally in order to match the high musical standards set by Michael.

## **8. LONG SERVICE AWARDS**

The customary long service awards were deferred until members were able to meet again in person.

## **9. QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS**

There were none.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.