

**Chantry Quire Annual General Meeting, Arundel Cathedral Centre
Tuesday 2nd November 2021**

1. The Chairman, Philip Jones, welcomed everyone to the meeting and began by reminding the members to continue to be careful with testing, social distancing and masks if required to keep us all safe. He reminded members that only those in paid-up membership were entitled to vote.

Present:

Sarah Bridgland, Antony Clark, Nancy Durance*, Sandra Fowler Bennett, Carol Frogley, Tina Gibbs, Jacqui Greaney, Gay Jacklin, Sandra Janman, Philip Jones, Time Lewis, Richard Mockett, Mike Overend, Sarah Plumley, Richard Robinson, Andrew round, Sue Round, Sarah Russell, Geoffrey Simmonds, Nick Steinitz, Kathryn Tarrant, Chris Williams, Liz Williams
Those shown with an asterisk* were non-voting.

2. Apologies:

Dorothy Gould, Susanna Martin, Sally Morris, Linda Shepley, Peter Calvert-Smith, Kate Whitfield, Eleanor Steinitz, Lindsay Lewis

3. Previous Minutes:

Minutes of previous AGM (19th December 2020) were approved by members

4a Chairman's Report:

This had been circulated in advance.
No questions were raised

4b Musical Director's Report:

This had been circulated in advance.
No questions were raised. The Chairman gave very grateful thanks to Peter for all that he does.

4c Marketing Report:

This had been circulated in advance.
There was nothing extra to report. Sarah is using social media to grow our profile.

4d (i) Treasurer's Report and Accounts:

These had been circulated in advance.
There were no further questions and members resolved unanimously to approve them.

(ii) Appointment of Examiner:

Richard Mockett was happy to be appointed as examiner for the accounts for the year 2021/2022. Members resolved unanimously to approve this.

5 Committee Elections:

Two members were leaving the Committee – Susanna Martin and Geoff Simmonds – and they were warmly thanked for their contribution. Geoff has been Treasurer for more than 20 years

from when the choir started. A presentation was made to him to show our gratitude for all the work he has done.

Nick Steinitz (Librarian) was also standing down from the Committee, but was eligible for re-election. All members agree with his re-election.

Three additional members had been co-opted during the year: Peter Calvert-Smith, Sarah Russell (social media) and Carol Frogley (events publicity); Sarah and Carol had both joined Sally Morris on the marketing sub-committee.

Sally Morris was standing down as Secretary, but remaining on the Committee as webmaster.

Two new Committee members had been nominated: Sandra Janman and Sarah Bridgland.

All the above were re-elected, confirmed or elected en bloc by unanimous resolution

Three new Officers had been nominated: Peter Calvert-Smith as Treasurer, Sandra Janman as Secretary and Sarah Bridgland as Membership Secretary. All were elected en bloc by unanimous resolution.

6 Items for discussion:

- a) **Invitations to sing for a fee** – Philip Jones explained the Committee's policy decision which was as follows: "with regard to any future invitations, it was agreed that a discussion should be held between the Chair, MD and Secretary in the first instance. If it was felt worth pursuing, they would agree what further information was needed. While members are of course free to sing independently, (and the Committee would not refuse this), the name 'Chantry Quire' should only be used when singing under Peter's direction or that of a substitute appointed by him."

There would need to be adequate rehearsal to keep to our high standard.

Michael Overend was in favour of accepting the policy as it was something that needed clarifying and now seemed the right way to move forward. Resolved – all in favour.

- b) **Proposed 'Friends of CQ' Scheme** – unfortunately, Kate Whitfield was unable to attend the meeting and so could not clarify. It was felt that a small subcommittee should be set up to progress this to include Kate Whitfield, Philip Jones and Sally Morris were on the subcommittee but other volunteers (not necessarily from the committee) would be welcome. The Chair had been asked by Kate to suggest to members that the only way to get such a scheme of the ground was if all members got involved and undertook to secure 6 people each to become Friends. This would hopefully give us a nucleus for ticket sales and a supporters group. There was a lot of discussion due to some members feeling that recruiting 6 people each was a tall ask. The paper had mentioned that Friends would get complimentary tickets so would we be giving away more than we would get? Would it be better to give discounted tickets?

It was felt that a better place to advertise 'Friends' would be to have a table explaining everything at a concert rather than rely on members finding people alone.

Jacqui has experience of working with 'Friends' groups and said that it is a huge commitment for people to look after the group. The Chair suggested that a further

meeting with the subcommittee and Jacqui would be needed to gain more information. When the situation is clearer, the subcommittee would return to the members with a proposal.

- c) **Proposed amendment to the Rules and Regulations** – as Peter Calvert-Smith was unable to attend, the Chair explained the reasons for the addition of a new clause to provide added security, particularly for online transactions. The amendment was approved by all members.
- d) **Suggestion that members might pay for their own music in future** – Carol Frogley explained the reasons for this proposal. Questions were raised about the ‘normal’ yearly cost of hire. Costs vary from piece to piece but Geoff said that the cost per year is about £400. Would the cost be divided between the members? Could it be included in an increased membership fee? Members would be able to choose whether to hire or purchase their own music and would be asked the term before.
It was generally felt that this should go back to committee for more discussion and a more concrete proposal taken back to the members.
- e) **AOB** – Kathryn Tarrant asked for clarification about ladies’ dress at the concert. Long black skirts or trousers can be worn with a black long-sleeved top.

The meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.