

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Arts Hall, Chepstow Comprehensive School, on Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 8.45pm. Present 43 members

The Chairman opened the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from the following members Sheila Trott, Gill Pope, Helena Shepherd, Jean Toole, Nicola Giles, Mary Viittle, Dorothy Smith, Verity Jackson, Dorothy Harris, Peter Evans, Graham Bull. This term absentees : Graham Williamson, Mervyn Gardner, Elizabeth Winstanley, Janet Anderton, Val Bailey, Alan Beattie, Keli Beamon

1. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 1st October 2014 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

Firstly may I congratulate the Society on yet another successful year of wonderful music. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their hard work and commitment over the last 12 months in supporting me in my role as Chairman and ensuring that Society matters run smoothly. To each and every one of you I am extremely grateful.

On behalf of the committee and members I would like to thank Graham and Marje. Without your dedication and constant guidance none of this would be possible. I am very happy to announce that both are happy to continue in their current roles for the coming year.

Chepstow Choral Society has had another busy, challenging but rewarding year. We have a great deal to be proud of. We commenced with our unforgettable Remembrance concert in November, a fitting and moving concert to show our respect for all those who were involved in World War 1. On this occasion we were joined by Chepstow School Ensemble, the Beachley Barracks Fijians Singers and bugler.

In December festive carols at St Pierre were followed by our traditional Christmas concert and we were delighted to welcome back The Dell School Singing Group.

Our Passiontide concert was another highlight. We performed three major choral works which spanned different eras and styles - Vivaldi's Gloria, Schubert's Mass in G and Haydn's Nelson Mass.

In June we performed our concert "With a Voice of Singing" - yet another lovely concert to show the choir's versatility, again covering music of different styles and eras. Congratulations to everyone!!

Our social calendar has also been busy with our New Year meal at The Village Inn and most recently the picnic at Tintern Old Station. Thank you to Janet for all her hard work in organising these events.

The committee continues to promote the Society and has had a full year.

- Regular committee meetings to plan for forthcoming concerts and events.
- Quarterly newsletters continue to provide useful information to members.
- Regular press releases.
- Website. Our superb new website is up and running. Thank you Angela for all your time and hard work on this project.
- Forward planning for 2015/16 continues.

Lastly I would like to thank our unseen helpers, many of whom do their duties with little fuss. Hywel on camera, Christine on music, Peter on posters, John on lighting, Brian and the front of house team to name but a few.

Sue Carter, Chairman Chepstow Choral Society. September 2015.

3. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Brian confirmed that the 2013/14 accounts were audited by David Pask

Brian then presented the unaudited 2014/15 accounts. We have made a loss of £1,659 this year (£1,818 without the debtor carried over from 2013/14) and this gives us cause for thought for the future. Income was down mainly due to reduced subscriptions (fewer members) and reduced concert income in 2015. The Xmas concert made only a small profit which was very unusual, the Passiontide concert made a loss of £3k but was on budget, and the Summer concert was very weak with only 59 tickets sold (excluding patrons), and made a loss of over £200. Also only 2/3 of the choir sang in this one which was disappointing.

We also had an exceptional cost of around £800 for the website development, which won't be there next year.

It was agreed David Pask will audit the current accounts. Proposer Roger Martin, Secunder Judith Wells.

Next year's budget 2015/16 – in order to balance the books a little better, the Spring concert has been scaled back and will cost around £1500 rather than £4000, as there will be no costly orchestra & soloists - just a hired in organ as the St Mary's one is really in bad shape.

Brian's plea – get your friends to join, sing in the concerts, and sell tickets ! We must make sure that we do not make another loss next year, and with the newly revised budget, we believe we will be OK.

It has been decided that subscriptions will remain at £60 but will be reviewed if we make another large loss in 2016. But there will be no music subsidy this year as the Ty Cerdd funding has been cut. We wait to see what new schemes they may put in place to apply for funds. A few questions from the floor :

Q. How much is the organ which will be used in the Spring concert ? £720

Q. Does St Pierre cost us ? No .It's for enjoyment and a showcase for us & St Pierre

Q. Will we break even in Summer concert ? We should do if we sell tickets.

4. Membership Secretary's Report

Welcome to all present. Jean thanked Sue & Brian for their reports. Good news that the subs are to remain at £60 and looked forward to prompt payment ! She also reminded everyone to complete a membership form to help keep information current and if you are a gift aider, please make sure you include your postcode.

Membership No's

	Sops	Altos	Tenors	Basses	Total
2013/14	26	24	6	9	65
2014/15	20	23	7	10	60

Welcome to new members and we look forward to the recruitment of further members.

Patrons, Supporters & Friends

Our concerts in the past year have been both enjoyable and well-received. Well done everyone.

Our Patrons prove to be enthusiastic and supporters of the Society and we look forward to welcoming them on the 21st of next month at our Patrons' Evening. Any help on the evening will be much-appreciated. We now have 47 patrons, down from 49 last year. Sadly a couple had passed away during the year.

Many in the choir have a 'family patron' and we'd love to encourage more.

There are benefits to becoming a patron - tickets sent out, reserved seats, names in the programme, invitations to special events and a £30.00 standard fee represents a bargain!

Thankyou's

To all members who are work hard in preparing for concerts, Christine for work with music, Janet for arranging social events, Chris and Val for stand-in duties at the piano. Last but not least, Graham and Marjorie for all their hard work, patience and sense of humour in preparing us for our concerts. We all look forward to rehearsing and performing our 2015-2016 music programme.

Jean Parkes: Membership and Patrons' Secretary, Chepstow Choral Society.

In response, Marjorie then thanked the choir members for their hard work on behalf of both Graham & herself.

5. Election of officers and committee members for 2014-15

POST	NAME	NOMINATED	SECONDED
Chair	Sue Carter	Roger	Gaynor
Secretary	Angela Ham	Sylvia	Yvonne
Treasurer	Brian Duerden	Janet	Sylvia
Member Secretary	Jean Parkes	Judith	Doug
Publicity Secretary	Yvonne Copestake	Karen	Maureen
Sop Rep	Yvonne Copestake	Karen	Maureen
Alto Rep	Christine Lovett	Gaynor	Glynis
Male Rep	Roger Martin	Ivor	Derek
Social Secretary	Janet Ellard	Continuing on	

All nominees were elected unopposed and will serve as the Society officers and committee for 2015-16.

6. Any other business

Stephen Adamson – raised the issue of the traffic calmers in the Leisure Centre which he felt were too extreme. However there are some big alterations currently being worked on in the car park so we may see the road being resurfaced at the same time. This is a sensitive issue as safety of the school children is paramount and we should be mindful of that if it is something we feel we need to follow up with the council once the work is complete.

7. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.21pm.