

1 Attendance and Apologies

Present:

(NOTE: Because the AGM was held via ZOOM, the list of attendees may not be comprehensive. The attendees were all VH members, but while most were VH members, some were from other choirs)

Amanda Taylor
Angela Burett
Caroline Millar
Chris Berry
Chris???

Christina Gill
Dan
Diane Barnes
Elaine Spicer
Fay Clark
The Hamiltons
Harvey Brough
Helen's Iphone
Inga Wolf
Jackie Nash
Jane Roberts
Janet Henfrey
Jeanette
Jo Sholem
Jo Tunnard
John Gilbert
Jonathan Sedgwick
Josh
Kristina Rosears

Luisa Stopa (USV)
Lynne Berry
Marcus
Marilyn Rams
Marion Chadwick
Mark Reihill
Mark (markus??)
Martin McEnery
Peter Scott
Polly Barker
Ros Brown
Rosalind Johnson
Sarah Bennison
Sheena Cruse
Stefania Scarpari
Stevie Porter
Tricia Zipfel

Apologies:

Christina Gill, Justin Butcher

2 Opening remarks and Introductions

Tricia Zipfel (TZ) (Chair of Trustees) welcomed Vox Holloway and Virtual Vox members and apologised for the late meeting, which was being held on Zoom, was due to the restrictions of Covid 19. She noted that the draft minutes to the AGM 2020 and the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending December 2020 had been available on the VH website for the past three weeks. She also noted that, according to the Memorandum of Association, the membership fee was 1 penny, and that the Committee had agreed that this was included in the termly fees.

3 Approve Minutes

Approved by a show of hands. No objections.

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Trustees Report

TZ gave a brief overview of the report and reminded the members that it was to inform both the membership and the Charity Commission of the Trustees activities over the past year.

After performing the Kinks – Arthur and The Village Green at Shoreditch in February 2020, our activities were disrupted by the outbreak of Covid 19. The Freedom Song Concert, planned for March, had to be postponed and the 10th anniversary programme had to be revised.

We found a way to keep singing and our community going by creating Virtual Vox. Harvey and Christina developed a way to hold virtual rehearsals and concerts and, overcoming a variety of technical difficulties, enabling us to rehearse and post concerts on YouTube. Being virtual, we were able to extend membership nationwide, with new members joining in from Cornwall to Derbyshire and USA, and reached a wider audience.

This enabled us to maintain an income stream to keep paying Harvey, Christina and our other musicians.

We also held virtual coffee break after rehearsals, so that we could keep in touch during lockdown and support members suffering from isolation.

Virtual concerts included Freedom Song in March; Liane Caroll and Edgar Elgar concert in July, Sgt Pepper in November, Bells of Paradise in December, and Everything Must Change in March 2021. We were delighted to return to live performance with Requiem in Blue in July, with Freedom Song scheduled for September at the Hackney Empire.

We were delighted to receive an Arts Council grant for The Sun Does Shine, a new piece we were developing with the Prison Reform Trust, to film the creation of the piece and the performance. Although there were gaps - not being about to sing at Lennox House or the Whittington Hospital – we were able to continue supporting St Luke's, and young Idris with a bursary to support his musical education.

TZ concluded by thanking the Vox Holloway Trustees and Co-optees, and all the volunteers who helped to make Vox happen; Harvey and Christina for their inspiring, creative leadership; our members, for their continued support and generosity; and the musicians who work with us, supporting us.

Polly Barker, in turn, thanked TZ on behalf of the membership, for steering us through the difficult times, always cheerful, an 'absolute rock'.

6 Treasurer's Report

Jonathan Sedgwick (JS) (Treasurer) gave a summary of the financial report to the year ending 31 December 2020

As a registered charity, the accounts had to be prepared and presented in a particular format: for submission to the Charity Commission; for members to see how the Committee was managing; and for fundraisers, to demonstrate that we were properly managed.

Income was from membership subs and generous donations, concert takings, fundraising, and grants. Overheads were minimal, so most of our income went to paying Harvey, Christina and the professional performers.

He noted that it had been a quieter year, with a lower income overall, and steady results. Although income was roughly half that of the previous year (£52,000, vs £113,000), we were still a substantial organisation. Overall, there had been a loss of £7,000 on the year, but we were able to use the surplus carried over from the previous year.

JS confirmed that the independent examiner, Graham Tait, had signed-off the accounts and was happy to donate his time, and JS thanked him for his support. The accounts were recommended to the membership for approval.

Sheena Cruse (Secretary) then invited the members to authorise the Report and Accounts. The accounts were approved by a show of hands.

7. Elections

TZ invited members to approve

6 Director's Report

Harvey

7 Nominations and Elections

TZ handed over the Nominations and Elections to Polly Barker, as Tricia Zipfel, Chair, Jonathon Sedgewick, Treasurer, Sheena Cruse, Secretary, and Caroline Millar, Trustee had come to the end of the second year of their terms and were therefore standing for re-election. Polly Barker, Trustee, had come to the end of the first year of her term and therefore remained in post.

Tricia Zipfel, Chair, nominated by Marion and seconded by Janet: Elected
Sheena Cruse, Secretary, nominated by Janet, seconded by Caroline: Elected
Jonathon Sedgewick, Treasurer, nominated by Patricia and seconded by Mark: Elected
Caroline Millar, Trustee, nominated by Amanda, seconded by Janet: Elected

As those standing for re-election were standing unopposed, no election was necessary.

TZ announced that Marion Chadwick, Co-opted member, was standing down from the committee and thanked her for all her support and hard work. She would leave a huge gap, with her eye for detail and organisational rigour at a practical level, and bringing her professional experience to concert management.

The committee was seeking new members to ensure a healthy turnover of membership and expand the skillsets and ensure a stable future for the choir. TZ encouraged the membership to think about whether they might want to become more involved and be co-opted onto the committee.

8. Director's Report

Harvey Brough (HB) thanked TZ and the committee for their commitment and support. He felt that, as a musician and composer, Vox Holloway and Virtual Vox were amongst the most important things he had ever done – creating a real community. During Covid, which was really hard and scary, Vox helped to keep him going, offering music, and helping the musicians we know to continue to 'ply their trade'.

He paid tribute to the committee, their support had enabled VH and VV to keep going; to Christina – who had only joined for Freedom Song and was now a, integral, dynamic member, and without whom VV would not have worked; and Clara, for her continued support throughout the difficulties imposed by Covid. It had been amazing to work with Liane Caroll; Village Green had been such a thrill and he was now working on the CD, and he was looking forward to the coming year.

8. Close

TZ thanked everyone for attending and taking part in VV, and closed the meeting