



## Minutes of SSS Board of Trustees 20th October, 2024 on Zoom

Item	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Karen Dodd (KD), Chair, Viv Rolph (VR) Secretary, Mary-Rose Griffiths (M-RG), Lesley Eley (LE), Steve Fosdick (SF), Judith Mason (JM), Lisa Rowland (LR), Andi Hopgood (AH, Observer)</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting (16.03.24)</u></b></p> <p><b>Item 3</b> - The Code of Conduct had been added to the website, under the Roles &amp; Responsibilities heading and members had been asked to take note of it</p> <p><b>Item 4.1</b> - No action as yet on commissioning a photographer to produce promotional shots of the choir. AH knows of some local firms &amp; will provide contact details. <b>(AH)</b></p> <p><b>Item 4.2</b> - It was too difficult to find a suitable venue for a collaborative gig with CJC at an affordable price. AH proposed we widen the net further, to include places like Stowmarket &amp; try again next year. VR suggested the cinema in Stowmarket might be a possibility &amp; will investigate. <b>(VR)</b></p> <p><b>Item 4.3</b> - Steve will continue to investigate the cost of hiring gazebos <b>(SF)</b></p>
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p><b>Membership</b> now stands at 39; 4 new members have been recruited this term</p> <p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p><b>3.2</b> Balance in bank: £4,941.95 Petty Cash: £ 104.41 <b>Total: £5,046.36</b></p> <p><b>3.3 Community Outreach Fund</b> - now stands at <b>£1,950</b></p> <p><b>3.4 Changing the dates of our Finance Reports to the Charity Commission</b> VR had investigated this, and discovered that we would need to have a transition year, as a Finance Report cannot cover a period longer than a 12 months.</p> <p><b>3.5 Gift Aid</b> - 19 members have returned forms so far. Mary Rose also has some that were filled in previously.</p>

	<p>- One member has expressed concerns about whether we are allowed to claim Gift Aid, as our subs are not donations. However, VR clarified that the Government guidelines allow charities to make claims for subs, as long as the contributions collected are used to further the charitable objectives of the charity, which they are, in our case.</p> <p><b>3.6 Annual Review of MDs fees and choir subs. (Confidential item)</b></p> <p><b>3.7 Future Projects - SCC Funding Opportunity</b></p> <p>- AH drew attention to the availability of funding of up to £1,000 for small Arts projects &amp; asked Trustees to consider ideas for working with groups in the local community.</p> <p>- More deprived areas &amp; projects fitting in with Council's objectives, e.g, well-being, mental health most likely to be approved</p> <p>Initial ideas included working with After School Clubs; refugee groups; primary school classes or choirs; hospitals</p> <p>AH asked for any further ideas to be sent to her via WhatsApp</p> <p><b>3.8</b> Trustees approved the purchase of a new inverter to replace the faulty one.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b><u>Upcoming Gigs</u></b></p> <p>- 15th December 2024, St. Peter's gig</p> <p>- 1st February 2025 - collaborative gig with another choir at St. Margaret's, Ipswich</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Activities supporting our charitable objectives in 2024</u></b></p> <p><b>- Bringing soul &amp; gospel music to a new local audience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Busking in Ipswich</li> <li>● SSS Summer Concert</li> </ul> <p><b>- Bringing soul &amp; gospel music to a new audience elsewhere:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eye gig</li> <li>● Easton Open Gardens (community outreach funded)</li> </ul> <p><b>- Bringing members of a local community together through singing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grove Court Care Home ABBA evening (community outreach funded);</li> <li>● Weekly Singing for the Soul sessions</li> </ul> <p><b>- Improving people's understanding of, and skill in performing the music of specific genre of music:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Weekly rehearsals</li> <li>● ABBA Workshops</li> </ul> <p><b>- Supporting people of limited means to access singing activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community Outreach Fund used to offer choir places at reduced rate to those in financial difficulty</li> </ul>

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>  <b>Feedback from Members</b> Towards the end of the summer term some members expressed concerns, (in some cases publicly in rehearsal and in other cases by sharing their ideas with trustees), about the difficulty of persuading people to buy tickets for gigs. There were two issues in particular:  (i) The quality of solo performances: The key proposal to try to tackle this issue was to re-start Vocal Group sessions (AH)  (ii) Audiences hearing the same songs too often: - After some discussion, trustees agreed that a better balance should be struck between new material & old favourites. - LE thought that including more Christmas songs at the St. Peter's gig would appeal to people. This was echoed by JM & MRG - LR also suggested that asking members what they would like to see included might help to motivate them to promote gigs more widely.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Find a date convenient to all in the first week of December (KD)