

# Minutes of committee meeting 6/1/26

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 6th January 2026

Present – David Bayne( DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG),  
Lawrie Coulthard (LC), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC)  
Copy to Richard Kay (RK)

Item Action

1 The minutes of the December meeting were approved and signed off

A matter carried over concerned the venue for the 2026 Social Evening. TG suggested

using St Robert's social club as it has a bar and moderate prices and intends to make a booking for Friday 13th March. Blue badge parking should be available in the church

opposite. SB commented that more consideration might have been given to Harrogate

Golf Club where last year's successful social was held.

TG

2 Project "Sing when you're winning"

This was the main and urgent subject of this meeting

Organisation

Both the promotion and running of this project require capable volunteers from the

choir. A sub-committee of 4-5 people needs to be identified but the promotion of the

project will require a wider commitment. Committee members suggested 9-10 names

who might be interested and TG, GC and DB will speak to them

at this evening's

rehearsal. A committee member (in turn) should attend each of the singing sessions. A

key function will be to register attendees and collect e-mail addresses.

Presentation to Membership

The project needs to be presented to members in detail and it was decided to do this on

January 13 th from the break for as long as it takes.

DB read out a proposal from RK for the content of the presentation

Presentation points

- . Need to make the choir more relevant
- . Radical new project modelled on the success of other MVCs
- . 10 week fixed term course from April – June pitched as a charity fundraiser for men with little or no singing experience, culminating in a joint concert with HMVC
- . No mention of HMVC or "choir" in promotion or running of the course
- . Run at a different venue from HMVC
- . This is a last-ditch effort to invest in the future of the choir
- . Promotion begins end of February

The key paragraph of the presentation is as follows

"Alongside the agreement to commit some of our reserves, the success of the

project will be entirely dependent on how well we can publicise and recruit.

Similar projects from very similar choirs in comparable catchments show that it

is possible to attract up to 50 participants (sometimes more) but this requires

every member of the choir to be committed and proactive when it comes to

publicity. The 'support in kind' is almost more vital than the finances and we will

need boots on the ground to put up posters, distribute flyers at supermarkets, contact news outlets, gather data etc. as well as being prepared to help with the general organisation. We will be looking for a sub committee of volunteers to oversee this project, but it will need everybody to go above and beyond to promote the project, whilst not necessarily representing HMVC. There will of course be decisions along the way that not everybody agrees with, but the united front of positivity towards a collective goal will be the secret to success".

Venue for Course (St Robert's Social Club)

We have booked the downstairs room (with piano and capacity for up to 20 ) with the option to move to a larger room upstairs. These spaces are available on Wednesday evenings from 8th April. TG is a member here and will act as liason between HMVC and the club, including our adherence to their rules for Health & Safety and Safeguarding.

Choice of Charity to benefit

We prefer a locally-based men's charity even if it is part of a nation-wide franchise.

Andy's Man Club is a UK charitable organisation that coordinates weekly peer-to-peer support groups for men. It aims to improve mental health in men and support men at risk of suicide. The charity organises weekly 2-hour group talking sessions at over 270 venues across the UK, led by a trained group member known as a facilitator. CD gave some valuable information on the Harrogate branch and will pass on some connections

to TG

Dates for Course

RK has suggested 5 Wednesdays from 22 nd April a break on 27 th May then 5 Wednesdays

until 1 st June with a concert on 4/5 th July. Availability of accompanists still needs to be

checked out, but (former member) Ben might be able to help out.

Application for Grant from NYCA man's mental health fund

The text was slightly modified in accordance with our ad hoc meeting with RK and David

Healy on 16 th December and the application was submitted by DB on 28 th December

along with the requisite attachment documents. Apart from an acknowledgement of

receipt, no further communication from NYCA has been received to date. DB will keep

the committee informed of any developments.

3 Treasurer Report

II has opened a second account for "Sing when you're winning".

Expenditure in

December included hall hire for November, NAC membership, insurance and music

team honoraria all totalling GBP 2287. 1 expected sub in basses is still outstanding.

We received GBP 150 from Knaresborough Holy Trinity after some renegotiation due to

the very poor audience attendance. Another GBP 145 was received from the collection

concert at Woodlands Methodists. We were wrongly invoiced for 16 th December

(Woodlands concert) and this will be corrected.

II made a request for concert song lists for members to include the song library

numbers.

II

#### 4 Concert secretary report

There have been no changes to our performance dates since December, viz

13 th February Morning visit to Brackenfield prep school

27 th February Joint concert with Rodillians ladies at Boston Spa methodist church

(BSMC)

1 st March York festival evening concert

21 st March Harrogate choir competition

30 th April Afternoon visit to Pannal primary school

9 th May. Harrogate Choir Festival (but no invitation received yet)

6 th June Sing Out concert, now assumed to be at West Park Centre

3 rd /4 th or 10 th /11 th October. Joint concert with Eastwood Collieries MVC

PS A meeting at BSMC between RK and the Rodillians MD reached an agreement about

performance spaces and the participation of Rodillians was confirmed. BSMC have

distributed our flyer in their Tadcaster Circuit newsletter.

GC

#### 5 Members Secretary Report

SB has prepared attendance lists for section reps. which will now reflect the removal of

the names mentioned in the last report as non-attenders which now gives a total of

current members of 38, of whom four may or may not be intending to remain. They

have still been included in the current sheets so time will indicate if they are returning

to regular attendances / payment of subs. The new lists cover the first 12 weeks of 2026

which will enable a comparison to be made with last 12 weeks of attendance between

September and December of 2025.

SB has sent a letter of thanks to Bryan Johnson who joined in 2022. The photo frame purchased on the understanding that he was a long-serving member will be retained for future use.

SB

6 Promotion of choir and events

LC is unable to continue as promotion and marketing member and needs to relinquish all computer-related work. He is willing to support whoever takes over this function and the committee must urgently find a replacement. The immediate promotion tasks are

LC

for the BSMC concert in February for which LC will order posters and flyers and "Sing when you're winning" for which LC will order 1000 flyers.

7 Sing Out

The date for the visit to Pannal school has been finalised (see 4. Above) and RK has issued the music to be sung with HMVC. Discussions with West End centre would indicate that it could accommodate the anticipated number of audience and performers, especially if the balcony can be brought back into use

TG

8 Woodlands Methodist Halls

We have been offered a return to the large hall for rehearsals at the same price as the small hall. RK and the committee approve this move and DB will confirm with the

administrator

9 Next Meeting Tuesday 3 rd February at Woodlands Methodists  
DB

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# Minutes of committee meeting 9/12/25

Harrogate Male Voice Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting at Woodlands Methodist Church

10.00 am on Tuesday 9 th December 2025 FINAL

Present – David Bayne( DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson  
(II), Tony Goodall (TG), Stuart Berry (SB),

George Cross (GC) Apologies – Lawrie Coulthard Copy to Richard  
Kay (RC), David Healy (DH)

Item Actio

n

1 TG opened the meeting emphasising the need to consider the  
application for a grant for  
our course for new singers. The minutes of the November  
meeting were signed off

TG

2 Treasurer's report

Hall hire £180 was paid for November and £217 was received  
from the Whixley concert

after £33 was deducted for additional hire of the "Green Room"

4 members have still not

paid subs however one is absent for medical operations and  
another is not expected to

return. Section reps are requested to follow up on non-payers.

II has opened a separate bank account for the proposed singing

course in April-May

## II

3 Concert secretary report

The Whixley concert was a success with a good audience, however our first 2 songs were rather hesitant and needed more rehearsal. There was confusion about hire of space for

the choir to assemble and GC paid £33 to hire the room behind the stage

Saturday 13 th December 13 th Holy Trinity Knaresborough. GC visited once again to identify

the church hall as a green room. 2 disabled parking spaces were reserved for us and access

by car to drop off passengers is assured. (In the event, the concert was held in the hall as

the church roof had become unsafe after a storm)

Tuesday 16 th December. Woodlands Church. Concert in lieu of rehearsal. Full Christmas

programme, casual dress.

Friday 13 th February. Visit to Brackenfield prep school,.

Morning visit for 2026 Sing Out

concert

Friday 27 th February. Boston Spa Methodist Church. Joint concert with Rodilians ladies'

choir. Rodilians have formally confirmed and expect to bring 40 members which poses a

problem for performance space.

Sunday 1 st March. York choir festival, Rowntree Theatre. 20 minute slot to sing.

Saturday 21 st March, Harrogate competitive festival, St Mark's church. afternoon session

Thursday 30 th April. Afternoon visit to Pannal primary school for 2026 Sing Out concert

Saturday 9 th May. Harrogate community choir festival. Awaiting formal invitation.

Saturday 6 th June, annual Sing Out concert. Venue probably West Park centre.

October 2026. Concert with Eastwood Colliery MVC of Nottingham. Dates are 3 rd /4 th or 10 th /11 th October. An afternoon concert is preferred to allow for travel back to Notts.

Starbeck Meths could fit this into their monthly music programme but if an afternoon concert does not suit them, we could use West Park.

GC

#### 4 Members Secretary Report

Bryan Johnson has formally resigned from the choir on the grounds of ill-health and Steve

Hurdle (T2) has joined. The attendance statistics are distorted by inclusion in the section

reps. forms of members who have resigned or who attend only sporadically. We should

not include members who have not or are not expected to pay subs this year and section

reps will be asked to revise their attendance sheets accordingly. Tenor 1 figures are not

available yet, but the attendance figures for the 12 weeks September to December

compared to the 12 weeks April to June 2025 are given below.

Sept. – Dec April- June

Tenor 2 66.6% 73.6%

Baritones 76.7% 68.8%

Basses 56.9% 47.7%

SB also investigated the possibility of a men's choral singing class as part of their night

school programme. This could still be included in the summer term 2026. However night

classes are only run on week days and RK would only be available at weekends.

SB

## 5 Promotion of Concerts (Report provided) LC

Whixley 22 nd November. Liased with Rita Lister to include 2 other performers and provided input for posters. Despite tickets priced at £15, the concert was a success.

Knaresborough 13 th December. Early posters and tickets had advertised a start at 7pm but this was later revised by the church wardens to 7.30pm. LC and RK provided input for posters which were distributed by LC and Trevor throughout Knaresborough

As we could not entertain at the Boston Spa Methodist Xmas tree festival on this date, LC

has arranged to sing solo with backing tapes in the afternoon.

Woodlands 16 th December. LC prepared a poster for publication in the church news and

website and along with choir colleagues, distributed them in the local area, as well as in

Wetherby and The Manor residential home.

Boston Spa methodists, Friday 27 th February. Joint concert with Rodilians in aid of Martin

House. Poster to include ticket availability from Rodilians and HMVC with QR codes. BSMC

will promote via parish news and Rodilians will promote on Facebook. LC has contacted

Martin House for promotional assistance and info on their logo. RK has generated a first

draft of poster/flyer using AI. As noted above, Rodilians may bring as many as 40 singers

from Wakefield. Use of online ticketing was discussed by the committee but was deferred

until the next meeting.

## 6 Recruitment. New singer campaign

St Roberts social club has been provisionally booked for this 10 week course. A source of a

grant has been identified by RK namely North Yorkshire men's

mental health fund. RK and David Healy (DH) have drafted a excellent project description with objectives etc, have defined the impact and legacy our project will have and have provided an analysis of the full costs. The risks to success have been defined along with our experience and capacity to deliver and monitor the success of the project, using Sing Out as an example.

The committee considered the document and have requested a meeting with RK and DH on 16 th December to address a list of questions formulated by DB before the concert.

Documents such as policies for safeguarding, health and safety together with our annual accounts need to be attached. The application has to be made by Friday 2 nd January at the latest. The target attendance of the course was given as 40 with possible 20 people progressing on to other support organisations. We still have to identify a men's charity as partner/ beneficiary and several were discussed.

It was agreed that DB should front up the application and make the formal application after RK and DH have updated the text and the required documents have been prepared.

The project has not yet been presented to the full membership and we need to seek volunteers for the proposed sub-committee as well as for promotion of the course.

It was proposed to do this before the rehearsal on 13 th January

7 Website and Google Drive

There have been no new developments here. RK has trialled AI to design posters.

RK

## 8 Sing Out 2026 schools update

(Postscript) Pannal school has agreed to a school visit for a choir performance at assembly

and a session with the school choir on the afternoon of Thursday 30 th April

GC and TG visited Spofforth primary school with a view to including Spofforth and Follifoot in Sing Out 2027 along with Richard Taylor school.

TG

## 9 Choir social

St Roberts social club would be available for our social, with a charge for a Saturday night

of £90 or £60 for a Friday night. The club has no catering so this would have to be ordered

externally, however there is a bar, which a majority of the committee would wish for. We

should attempt to promote some mixing of people instead of being anchored to a specific

table. TG suggested 13 th /14 th March if RK is available.

TG

## 10 Singing ability

CD raised the question of how to politely correct adjacent singers if they are off-key or too

loud. We should be able to speak to colleagues without them taking offence, or ask RK to

go over a line or page where the section is not all together

CD

11 Next Meeting (A special meeting to discuss the Singing Cours grant application to include

Richard and David Healey would be held at 6:15 before the Woodlands Concert on Grant

Application for singing course) The course will be the primary focus of the next

Committee meeting on Tuesday 6 th January at Woodlands  
Methodists.