

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.

Knareborough 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.