

# Minutes of October committee meeting

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Harrogate Male Voice Choir</b>  <b>Minutes of Committee Meeting at Starbeck Methodist Hall</b>  <b>10.00 am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>		
<p>2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final</b></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Present –</b> David Bayne( DB) , Chris Dunn (CD), Ian Ibbotson (II), Tony Goodall (TG), Lawrie Coulthard (LC), Stuart Berry (SB), George Cross (GC), <b>Copy to</b> Richard Kay (RK), David Healy (DH)</p>		
Item		Action
1	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting.</b> The minutes of the September meeting were approved and signed off. However David Healy on reflection has decided not to be co-opted onto the committee for marketing. He will however continue to seek sources of finance and support (see marketing, below).</p>	TG
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer's report</b></p> <p>The 2024-25 accounts and Trustee report were sent to members.</p> <p>At the AGM the treasurer reported end of year balance at a healthy £9,675 helped in no small way by the generous legacy of £500 from our late colleague John Dawson and our Secretary's NAC grant of £200. A closing small end of year surplus this time at £475 – compared to the previous year with negative £1618. In view of this useful position and notwithstanding reducing members – down from 47 three years ago to a likely 37 this year – the committee felt continuing subs at £150 was appropriate. Members approved the accounts and endorsed the subscription at £150 for recommendation at the AGM.</p> <p>As Patrick McCreanor has now resigned from the choir, Elwyn Pickering has volunteered to examine and audit our accounts for 2025-26.</p> <p>When new members own black suits which meet our uniform standards, they need pay only £15 for a tie and £25 for a shirt, and they should only pay when all aspects have been agreed</p>	II



6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recruitment</b> New singer campaign 2026</p> <p>TG and RK have been working on a campaign of 8-10 weeks duration in February/March 2026 for new male singers which would be separate from the normal choir operation (but with links not expressly hidden as suggested at the Peterborough conference). Although RK has offered to lead with only expenses paid, the committee agreed to pay a fee in addition per session. Possible venues are St Roberts social club, Harrogate Playhouse and West Park URC. TG and GC will investigate costs.</p> <p>The social prescribing effort has not yielded any candidates so far and we will distribute flyers ourselves to suitable locations. It is however encouraging that 2 people brought to the choir by members have now joined and another 2-3 are attending as potential members.</p>	RK/TG
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Website support</b></p> <p>The resignation of Brain Homes has left RK with no support in updating our website. TG will appeal for any member with ability in this area to help. To simplify access to practice tracks, documents and concert promotions, RK has developed a "new resources folder" or "Google drive" where such items can be saved. Committee members are encouraged to try this and give feedback. The folder will allow access for potential members before they have access to the website. Items to be saved should be sent to RK who is the sole administrator.</p>	RK
8	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sing Out 2026 schools update</b></p> <p>Communication with Pannal school has been difficult and visit dates have not yet been agreed. Both schools have yet to confirm whether Friday 5<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> would be preferred for the concert. At the moment, Harrogate High school appears to be the best available venue but audience capacity needs to be re-checked.</p>	TG
9	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Competitive festivals 2026</b></p> <p>The choir competitions in <b>Harrogate competitive festival</b> will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March in St Martin's church. Leeds Road. (Saturday is most likely)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Entries by 15<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>We have been invited to the <b>York Choir Festival</b> on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March to do a 20 minute slot in the evening at 7.30. There is no competition, rather it is a performance festival similar to the Royal Hall festival in Harrogate (for which we still a wait an invitation). We will not compete in Eskdale festival this year as neither of our accompanists is available.</p>	DB
10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGM</b></p> <p>Nominations and seconders have been registered for TG to continue as chairman and DB to continue as secretary, in accordance with the constitution. No nominations have been received for marketing. No questions have been received under "other business" .</p>	DB
11	<p><b>Venue of this meeting.</b> Was changed to Starbeck Methodists (with room fee) after last-minute notification that Woodlands would not be available today.</p>	DB
12	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next meeting. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November at Woodlands Methodists.</b></p>	DB