

**SUSSEX HARMONY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 8.15PM ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2009 AT THE BLACK HORSE PH, LEWES**

**Present:** Milly, Rachel, Dave, Jan, Jocelyn, Paula and Robin

**1 Apologies for absence – none**

**2 Minutes of the previous meeting** were agreed with the following amendments:

Under **6 Saturday 4 July – Red, White & Blue Ball** – in line 5 “Lewes District Council” changed to “Lewes Town Council”; and in line 6 “lights” changed to “loos”.

Paula said that she wanted it minuted that she had queried the expenditure of £175 on the sound system and was advised that this had been covered in the previous meeting.

The minutes were then signed as a true record.

**3 Matters arising – none that were not already covered by the agenda.**

**4 Treasurer's report**

The bank balance at 10 July was £532.32. Since the last meeting income had been one pro rata membership payment of £10 from Lesley and the sale of one WGMA CD by the Marsh Warblers. Expenditure had been £128 for the printing of the new quire leaflet; £230 for the hire of portaloos (£200 + £30 VAT); £27.43 for tea expenses covering January to July. Cash in hand was £120.

Dave handed round an accounts sheet showing that the bank balance was running down and could be in deficit by the end of the year if no money came in. It was agreed that, from September, a small charge of 20p per week should be made to cover the tea/coffee expenses.

**5 Past events**

**Saturday 4 July – Sacred Harp Sing** – Rachel said that, although the Lewes Sacred Harp Sing had been held in May for about the last nine years, the date had been moved this year to coincide with the Thomas Paine Festival organised by the town. The day had been quite well attended. We needed to pay for at least eight hours' hire of the church and it was agreed that £60 should be paid to Malling Church. An additional ex-gratia payment could be made to Malling Church later if the Committee wished to do so. £202 had been collected, giving a profit of £121.90. The date for next year would be 22 May. Paula suggested maybe having another shape-note event in the autumn.

**Saturday 4 July – Red, White & Blue Ball** – This had been very enjoyable but had not been as well attended as had been hoped. It was disappointing that very few quire members had come along. Dave handed round a sheet that contained his views on the Ball. Everyone was most concerned at the size of the loss and no-one had appreciated beforehand that this sort of loss could occur. Dave said that Sussex Harmony's Constitution did not actually provide for this kind of event and so the Committee had acted

outside of the Constitution and it was his view that committee members could be personally liable to cover the loss. Robin agreed that, in a business parallel, this could be the case. The size of the financial loss would bring Sussex Harmony to the brink of insolvency. However, there were some fee-paying events during the autumn term and these should save the Quire from going under financially. Milly said that she had spoken to Paul Myles and he was considering making a donation towards Sussex Harmony's losses. Milly was also going to talk to Miles Jenner, who had insisted on the portaloos. It was agreed that Milly and Dave would both sign a letter to the Tom Paine people and ask for financial help. Milly was willing to forego her income from the band (and Kevin's) and also the deposit for the bar. The initial loss was £291. Ticket sales had brought in £248. Dave would also realign Milly's accounts for the event to show the true loss of £413 (including agreed expenses for the band members). The profit from the raffle had been donated to the Mayor's charity as promised when the Mayor's charity dance had been cancelled. Jan was asked to write to Miles, thanking him for the use of the brewery premises and with a paragraph expressing regret about making a loss.

**Saturday 25 July – End of term barbecue** – This had been a very enjoyable evening and thanks were due to Kate and Ian for their wonderful hospitality and the use of their lovely garden. Paula had sent Kate a thank-you card.

## 6 Forthcoming events

**Saturday 26 September – Lunchtime concert at St Michael's, High Street, Lewes** – Rachel was worried about numbers for this event as she only had about a dozen names. She thought that she might be able to get one or two "outsiders" to help and Helena and Peter might be available.

**Saturday 3 October – Old Ale Day**

**Sunday 18 October or Sunday 15 November – Evening service at Eastgate Baptist Church** – Rachel said that she had had a call from David Barnes asking whether we could sing on either of the above dates.

Miles was planning to put on the Boys Ellman play at the Lewes Little Theatre during the autumn but no dates were available as yet.

**Friday 4 December – Concert with the Copper Family at Eastbourne** – booking had started for this concert.

**Thursday 17 December, 7.30pm – Carol evening at St Peter's, Preston Park, Brighton**

**Sunday 20 December, 6.30pm – Malling carol service**

**Monday 28 December, 12 – 2pm – Lunchtime carol singing at The Volunteer PH, Lewes**

## 7 Any other business

Paula had been giving out the new quire leaflets. She said that a recorder player from Lewes Chamber Choir might be coming along. People were certainly taking notice of the new leaflets. Paula would take some to Lewes Music School and other places where she thought people might be interested.

Robin said that there was a steadily increasing number of hits on the website – round about 20 per week. He intended to put the quire music on the members' area of the website but this would be delayed because he was working on another website, and gaining knowledge and technology along the way. He would probably start with the carols. Rachel confirmed that permission had to be sought from the person who had transcribed the music so that copyright was not breached.

Recording would be on the agenda for the next meeting and discussed with the Quire members. Members would be asked to bring their diaries to the first practice so that recording dates could be sorted out. A recording for sale in December would bring in some much needed revenue.

**8 Date of next meeting – Thursday 27 August, 8.15pm at The Black Horse PH, Lewes**