

United Kingdom Sacred Harp

East Midlands Convention

28th – 29th April 2018

Kegworth, Leics.

MID-YEAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Officers: Vicki Elliott (Chair), Catherine Roberts (Vice-chair), Joe Vickers (Secretary), Ted Brown (treasurer)

Vicki Elliott opened the meeting leading 34b.

Approx. 20 singers in attendance.

18a.1 Approval of 2017 Convention minutes.

These were approved. Matters arising – on agenda.

18a.2 2018 UK Sacred Harp Convention – update.

The Brighton singers updated the community on convention organisation. The Lord Nelson, which is near the main railway station, has been booked as the Saturday evening social venue. The venue has not set a minimum bar spend, which had been a concern at the previous business meeting.

18a.3 2019 UK Sacred Harp Convention – update.

The Bristol singers nominated Steve Brett as convention chair. (2nd Helen Brown, approved). The Trinity Centre (2016 venue) has been booked. The venue is currently undergoing external renovation. We have been assured that such renovations will not affect either the booking or the running of the convention. The Bristol singers reported that the venue would welcome donations from individuals or groups of singers.

18a.4 2020 UK Sacred Harp Convention – submission of bids.

The Tyneside singers will not be submitting a bid for the 2020 Convention. Singers in the East Midlands are currently exploring possible venues. The York singers are interested in hosting the convention in the next few years: they are currently exploring venues, one of which will be used for their all-day singing at the end of June. The York singers will review at the end of the summer and report at the UKSHC business meeting.

18a.5 Singing calendar / website

Seth Dickens and Sheila and Edwin Macadam are still working on improvements to the singing calendar hosted on the UK Sacred Harp website. There was some discussion about the practical aspects of the list, but more details will be circulated in a matter of course. It was felt that, as a general principle, singing organisers should be responsible for the accuracy of the information pertaining to their own events.

18a.6 Protection of ‘vulnerable people’

Some singers have raised questions about how ‘vulnerable people’ in the Sacred Harp community might be protected. It was understood that such concerns relate primarily to allocating travelling singers to suitable hosts, although wider discussion was held. It was generally felt that, based on our current understanding, such matters are a ‘grey area’. Do, for instance, organisers of singings have a formal duty of care to attendees? There was also discussion about how the singing community might be affected by other legislative changes – for instance, safeguarding or data protection.

Action: It was agreed that Ted Brown, Vicki Elliott, Anna Baldini and Joe Vickers would form a working party to explore what actions, if any, might need to be taken by signing organisers.

There being no further business Catherine Roberts closed the meeting leading 290.