

NEW MUSIC MAKERS COMMITTEE MEETING - Minutes 20th January 2026

Present:

Eric Gerrey (Chairman), Eunice Deuchar, Sharon Thomas (ST), Jacqui Clifft, Margaret Ballard, Sarah Turl (STu), Jerry Gamble

1. Apologies:

Elaine Walter, Gen Marsh

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Agreed by all as correct.

3. Matters Arising

Website – JC arranged meeting with Emmy for February. **Ongoing**

Christmas Concerts – List of jobs completed. Some Mulled wine and Mince pies left over. Suggest 12 bottles mulled wine and 36 boxes of Mince pies next year (based on approx. 200 ticket sales)

Mulled wine disposable cups – EG bought 4oz cups which worked fine.

Feedback on concert from MB was good – observation that altos were a little quiet.

Presents for children – “Santa” felt we should spend more money on them and perhaps have selection boxes rather than cheap gifts. Younger children seemed happy with what they received, but some of the older ones were disappointed.

Royal Victoria Park event – Chris Allison agreed we would not do it.

Committee meal at The Forge – very successful and enjoyed by all.

Choir meal – still being arranged by Lin and Rebecca.

Christmas concert 2026 – Chris has advised he would like to leave the date as proposed, ie 12 December.

4. Correspondence

Email received from a choir member concerning the difficulty in recruiting men. The email contained several suggestions for the committee to consider, some of which have already been implemented. It was decided that a sub-committee of two (one committee member and the choir member if he is willing) would be put in place so that the committee as a whole has a contact for each meeting to advise what has been done. Elaine and Gen to be approached to see if either of them would like to take this on. Also the choir member to be asked if they would like to take part. Suggestion they could be invited to our next committee meeting. **Action EG**

Email to be sent to the choir member to answer some of their other concerns. **Action JC**

5. Finance

Total assets currently £13123. Christmas concert overall profits were £1734, of which £582 will be donated to the Hampshire Air Ambulance. Lloyds Bank now charge for the banking of cash and cheques. ST has changed the format of the accounts to include a contra account (a sort of holding account) which records income that is known to be due to be paid out again, for example the fish and chips money. This is a balance sheet account which should be kept at zero. In view of the healthy financial state, it was agreed that a budget of £1000 would be allocated to next year with the intention of purchasing new tops for the ladies for Christmas to replace the red and black ones.

ST asked that all those who contributed towards the Christmas draw prizes be officially thanked. **Action EG**

6. Publicity

It was agreed by the committee that for future concerts people must buy their tickets through Ticket Source, and no reservations should be made without payment.

7. Website and Facebook

JC had plenty of ideas of how the website could be improved and will discuss these with Emmy to see whether she is willing/able to help.

8. Local Vocals

Following concern by one of our choir members that a member of LV has had to leave because he no longer sings with the choir, despite having done so for a period of time in the past when he left the choir but was allowed to continue with LV, it was pointed out that the person in question now has difficulty hearing which affects his tuning and therefore the sound of the group as well as the choir. It was agreed to avoid any further confusion that an amendment should be made to the constitution to cover Local Vocals as being choir members only. **Action for AGM**

9. Forthcoming events

Mayor's charity concert 9th May

The mayor of Eastleigh has asked the choir to perform a concert in aid of her charity. It has been provisionally booked for 9th May – the committee agreed that NMM would contribute half of the fees for Chris and Keziah to the charity. Further details awaited. Chris Allison has indicated that the programme will be a mixture of new songs and some from our repertoire that we are familiar with. **Action STu**

Summer concert 6th June 2026

Ladies uniform agreed as being the gold tops. Fliers need to be ready to advertise our concert at the Mayor's concert in May.

Summer Spectacular 11th July 2026

Ladies to wear own white tops. GM had asked whether the Jubilee hall in Bishops Waltham could be considered as a venue, but it was felt that the format we have using the Hedge End Village hall was successful and more local to our audience.

10. Choir welfare

None

11. AOB

ST had drawn up a policy to cover the moving of choir funds to a deposit account. It was agreed that this should be added to the constitution, along with the "Reserves" policy.

Action for AGM

Chairman

Eric advised that he is willing to stand again at the AGM.

New Year Party

EG suggested we could hold a party for members and their friends/families. Idea to be floated with the choir members. **Action EG**

Meeting closed at 09.45 pm. Next meeting Feb 17th 2026, 7.30 pm.