

NEW MUSIC MAKERS COMMITTEE MEETING - Minutes 20th October 2026

Present:

Eric Gerrey (Chairman), Sarah Turl (Stu), Sharon Thomas (ST), Jacqui Clifft, Eunice Deuchar, Saffron Armstrong, Jerry Gamble, Elaine Walter, Gen Marsh

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 22nd September 2026

Agreed by all as correct.

3. Matters Arising

Local Vocals photograph for website. Martyn Thomas has volunteered (via ST) to do this when everyone is available. Waiting for an opportunity at Snowdrops care home. **Action ongoing ST** (Will be December)

Mayor's Office re performance 22 May 2027 for his charities Wessex Cancer Support, Wet Wheels Hamble and 1216 Squadron Eastleigh Air Cadets. Date now agreed as 1 May 2027.

Action ongoing EG

Fair OK WI – re concert Wed 24th Nov 2027 - 1945 for an hour. Chris available. Charge will be £100. Need to report back to WI by 23 Sep for their next meeting – **Action complete**

Air Ambulance – details supplied of the amount collected in their tins (£495.10), so now need to organise payment of our contribution £1196.43 and have official presentation for total £1691.53. Website to be updated with this final total. Committee agreed on 8th October to do this before the evening rehearsal. Cheque presented – **Action complete**

Interview Clips - Saffron offered to do interview clips with choir members for the website.

Action ongoing SA.

Policies - ST suggested that the current choir policies should be put onto the website. Committee agreed – ST to send policies to JC. Policies were forwarded but have not been posted yet. Only Data Protection and Equal Opportunities showing. These are now on the website. **Action complete**

Welcome Leaflet – To be updated to include welfare policy. This has been done but will need amending as ST wished to change the content. Now awaiting new logo. **Action JC/STu**

Choir folders – It was requested at AGM that two folders per member be purchased to hold their music for each half of concerts to save removing music. ST had purchased a sample folder which was shown to the committee. Folder is currently £5.17 with Amazon, with no bulk buy reduction. It was agreed that 120 be purchased. Purchased by ST at £4.44 and currently held by her until nearer to the Xmas concert when they will be handed out. **Action complete**

Local Vocals new music – ED and ST have chosen the new music and words are ready for printing by EG. Vote of thanks to JG for his help. **Action complete**

Finance - It was agreed that NMM would pay £114 charge by KCC for a keyholder to be present for our summer concert in June 2027. ST advised if tickets remained at £10, we would need around 70 to be sold to break even. It was considered that this was viable so EG will report back to KCC agreeing the £114. **Action complete**

Welfare Policy - ST wishes to amend the policy to include grievances against committee members. It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman would act as principal contact in these cases. The amended policy will be sent to JC to use for the welcome leaflet, and to put on the website. The role description for Vice-Chairman will also need to be amended. **Action complete**

Ladies tops - GM suggested ladies wear tops of own choice for Xmas in black (with sparkle) with sleeves of some sort, and a splash of colour as a nod to Louise's colour scheme. However, GM, STu and SA are going to approach a retailer in Botley who may be able to help with bulk buys for a Christmas uniform. After said visit, a black glittery shawl (£24) and silver top for ladies (£20) was put forward as an idea to be purchased. Accepted total will be over budget of £1000 for uniform. Possible the silver top will not be available in time for concert anyway. **Action GM ongoing**

New logos – Committee agreed that a new logo was required to bring the choir more up-to-date. One was chosen from a selection submitted, and STu will work with it to make the words the same size. **Action STu ongoing**

Charity 2027 - Charity for 2026/27 – committee agreed that the same format as last year for choosing our next charity to support will be used. This will be done once the Air Ambulance cheque has been presented. **Action complete.**

4. Correspondence

Emails and enquiries received from Mark, David and Danny as tenors. Mark and David now accepted into choir, Danny has audition this week. Mark will be moving to Bass 1 in January. Rose Spink – alto, Nikita alto. Both advised we have a waiting list. (Jane Nunez and Helen Hogben still on Sop waiting list.) Suggestion made to allow new people to join rehearsals and be available for concerts if anyone dropped out, but it was felt this would alter the sound of the choir and mean we would have to purchase a lot of extra music.

5. Finance

Total assets currently £16198. Cheque still to be cashed by Air Ambulance of £1196.43. Fliers for Xmas concerts purchased £15.

6. Publicity

Adverts gone out and a few tickets sold. (41 for afternoon and 9 for evening.)

7. Website and Facebook

Video of Air Ambulance presentation will not load onto website. **Action JC**

It was thought that the contact email function on the website for people to contact us may not be working, as we understand someone had tried to send us a message but it had not been received by the Secretary, which is where it should have gone. JC to contact Emmy. **Action JC** (Post meeting – function does work, so it would appear the email was not actually sent.)

8. Local Vocals

Donation from Laburnum House received - £41.70. Part of this has been given to EG to cover his invoice for paper used to printing the new words booklets. LV is performing at New Milton for a Dementia group in December, and the group have offered to pay for fuel. It was suggested we find out the cost of the Botley minibus. Martyn Thomas is an authorised driver, and ST will ask him to ascertain whether it is financially cheaper to use it instead of 3 cars. **Action ST** (Post meeting – the minibus is already being used that day.)

9. Forthcoming events

Bishops Waltham Christmas Fayre – 26th November 2026.

Freegrounds School – 28th November 2026 Two performances of 45 mins 11.30 am and 12.45 pm. Songs from Local Vocals selection with boom box. Small stage and chairs available.

NMM Christmas concert Hedge End Village Hall – 12th December 2026. Hall booked.
Haskins - 13th and 20th December 2026.

Mayor's concert –1 May 2027 (Venue West End Parish Hall tbc)

Summer Concert 2027 - 12th June 2027. Hall booked at KCC.

Summer Spectacular 2027 - 17 July 2027. Hall booked.

Christmas Concert 2027 - 11 December 2027 (1.00 pm sound check, 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm performance). Hall booked. Auditions to be arranged for soloists nearer the time.

Fair Oak WI (50 members) - Wednesday 24 November 2027 singing for 1hr from 7:45pm.

10. Choir welfare

11. AOB

Lost Music. One choir member has mislaid 2 pieces of their Xmas music. They have offered to pay for replacements. EG to ask them to pay £10 into bank account to cover. **Action EG**

Risk Assessment – EG gave ST a copy of a risk assessment to review, as it is required by KCC before our concert next summer. **Action ST**

Committee Meetings – agreed as follows for rest of financial year:

Jan 19th, Feb 23rd, Mar 23rd, Apr 13th, May 18th, Jun 22nd, AGM July 22nd.

Meeting closed at. 09.20 pm. Next meeting: 17th November 2026 at 7.30 pm.