

## BRIGHTON AND HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

### 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

#### Minutes

#### 1 Present

Members of the Board of Management: Stephen Chamberlain, Nicolas Chisholm (Chair), Ken Childerhouse, Neil Gershon & Sue McHugh (Hon. Treasurer).

In attendance: Ian Brignall (Concert Manager), Catherine Stead (General Administrator/Company Secretary) and Simon Keane (John Carewe Orchestra Trust)

Apologies: Board members John Barkshire, Daniel Bhattacharya and Chris Thomson plus a number of Friends.

Approximately 29 members of the Society.

No proxy votes had been received.

#### 2 Minutes of the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016

The Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 3 Matters Arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### 4 Report of the Trustees and Examined Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

The Chairman briefly summarised the **Trustees Report**, copies of which were available in advance and on the day, outlining the Society's activities over the past year.

The Hon. Treasurer Sue McHugh introduced the **Examined Financial Statements** reporting that the Society incurred a loss of £35,507 for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Income totalled £323,071 (including £71,232 of legacies). Other voluntary income from subscriptions and donations was slightly down compared to the previous year. Ticket sales and sponsorship were almost identical to the previous year (£2k lower). Expenditure was £11K lower mainly as a result of slightly lower concert costs.

As a result of the loss for the year reserves totalled £96,186 at year end and this is reflected in the cash balance of £95,596.

The budget for the current year is a planned loss of £67,381 on the assumption that no further legacy income is received. We have recently been notified of a small legacy of £1K, we are not aware of any other legacies at present. Our most recent budget monitoring indicates that expenditure is very close to budget. There are still some risks in relation to the income budget – in relation to ticket sales and sponsorship targets. However, at this stage we are working towards achieving an outturn in line with the budget.

This would mean that we go into 2018/19 with just £29K of reserves. There is therefore no scope for further use of reserves in 2018/19.

We have recently been notified of a very generous grant from the John Carewe Trust of £65K which we believe will enable us to plan for a full concert programme for 2018/19 while we work to increase other sources of income. It will be essential that we have brought reliable sources of income and expenditure closer into line during the course of 2019/20 in order to secure the programme for 2020/21.

There being no questions the meeting approved the Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2017.

## **5 Election of Members of the Board of Management**

Noted: i) that no elected member of the Board may serve for more than nine consecutive years; and  
ii) that one third of elected members are due to retire or, subject to the above, stand for re-election each year.

Neil Gershon is retiring from the Board having served for nine years (three x three-year terms). The Chairman thanked Neil for his huge service to the Society, particularly during the financial crisis, and presented him with a token gift and collection from the Board.

John Barkshire is stepping down from the Board having served for four years. The Chairman thanked John for his service to the Society both as a Trustee and for his sponsorship of an orchestral chair, Percussion, through the Barkshire Charitable Trust, which he will be continuing.

Norman Jacobs has been proposed by Nicolas Chisholm as a new member of the Board and has provided a short personal statement which was read out by the Chairman. The meeting approved his election for a period of three years, which was properly nominated and he was elected unanimously.

Andrea Cifelli has been proposed by Nicolas Chisholm as a new member of the Board and has provided a short personal statement which was read out by the Chairman. The meeting approved her election for a period of three years, which was properly nominated and she was elected unanimously.

The Chairman reported that no other nominations have been received for the Board at this time, and noted that the Board may co-opt someone to fill the vacant position prior to the next AGM.

## **6 Election of Officers for the Year 2017/18**

Nominations were as follows:

Chairman – Nicolas Chisholm

Hon. Treasurer – Sue McHugh

Company Secretary – Catherine Stead

All were properly nominated and elected unanimously.

Nicolas Chisholm thanked Friends for re-electing him as Chairman and for all their support. He finds his post hugely exciting and is determined to keep the orchestra alive. He noted that Barry Wordsworth is still very much involved with the orchestra, which we hope will continue to be the case, and thanked Concert Manager Ian Brignall for all his hard work on behalf of the orchestra. He reported that guest conductors Ben Gernon and Thomas Carroll are keen to return. He thanked Hon. Treasurer Sue McHugh for all her work for the Society and for agreeing to undertake the role for another year.

The Meeting approved re-elections as follows:

President – John Lill

Vice Presidents – John Carewe, David House, Jackie Lythell, Ronnie Power, and Karen Platt.

All were properly nominated and elected unanimously.

## **7 Appointment of financial examiner for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

Approved: the re-appointment of Plummer Parsons as independent financial examiner.

Questions from the audience were invited. Ronnie Power & Trevor Bolton sought clarification on whether there would be the same number of concerts next season? The Chairman confirmed there will be eight including New Year's Eve. Trevor Bolton asked if the Society could extend its advertising budget. The Chairman advised that given the current financial situation, this was not possible.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.50pm.