

**Eighty seventh Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Music Societies,
trading as Making Music**

Wednesday 7 September 2022, 6.30pm by Zoom

MINUTES

Present: 5 Trustees of Making Music, 28 Making Music representatives from member groups, 5 members of the staff of Making Music, Amy Healey LFF (Auditor)

Apologies: Dorothy Wilson

Chair: Clare Birks

Welcome and Introduction

Sharon Moloney asked everyone to change their name to display their full name. SM outlined access arrangements – live captioning available, questions to be typed in the chat, microphones to remain muted until called on. SM outlined voting processes – members can propose and second by waving and then an on-screen poll will be opened, only those who are eligible to vote should vote (those without a star against their name).

Clare Birks welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for their support and for attending. CB reminded everyone that papers were sent out in advance, accessible online via web link. CB reminded everyone that only member representatives were eligible to vote at this meeting.

1. The Minutes of the eighty sixth Annual General Meeting held online on Wednesday 8 September 2021, having been circulated in advance, appeared on screen. Clare Birks asked if the minutes provided an accurate record and for any questions to be typed in the chat. None were received. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Derrick Rowlands (Cor Meibion Dyffryn Tywi) and seconded by Sally Whytehead (Nonsuch Dulcimer Club). A poll to adopt the minutes appeared on Zoom. The minutes were received *nem con*, including 5 proxy votes cast by Clare Birks.

The Minutes of the eighty sixth Annual General Meeting held online on Wednesday 8 September 2021 were adopted.

2. Clare Birks presented the financial statements and the reports of the directors and auditors for the year ended 31 December 2021.

CB highlighted some items from the annual report, as observed by Chair Dorothy Wilson.

- Quote from a MM member – “Making Music has been absolutely fantastic throughout the pandemic and it has been so good to be able to speak to others all across the UK and beyond and hear how they have coped, discuss ideas and just support each other so, to hear some of the wonderful projects people have worked on during this time is truly inspirational.”
- 2021 was a very challenging year, dominated by Covid. It was very complex coming out, with regulations from nations coming at a different pace, and applying differently to instrumental groups and choirs. In the spring quarter, it was enough work just to keep abreast of these changing regulations and make information available to members. Online guidance was viewed 1.4 million times in 2021 – a huge benefit to member groups and the sector.
- Digital – virtual concerts continued but stopped as face to face could restart. But the strong appetite for digital training became apparent so in 2021, the MM team made guidance and training available from groups to be able to master art of hybrid events to accommodate a wide range of music makers.
- Return to face to face music making – the complexities of this made more severe some existing issues for member groups; that many volunteers are choosing to step down so there will need to be a push for more volunteers to run groups; and the finding of rehearsal and performance venues which are often themselves run by volunteers.
- Financial impact – Groups have been significantly impacted financially. Many more are now in our lowest band of annual turnover when paying their MM subscription. But we hope that as they get back to activity in a more normal way that incomes will pick back up again.
- During 2021 we embarked on a review of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy and developed a plan to make progress. We are looking to make change on three levels – for Making Music itself, amongst our member groups and within each member group.

Clare Birks introduced the financial statements and highlighted some items.

- Many more of our groups had income in the lowest band, and therefore paid the lowest subscription level in 2021, which meant that MMs income fell significantly. Subscription income was down by over £100k as compared with 2020.
- Grants were available which helped make up the gap but still left us with lowered income. It became essential for MM staff to do some tight cost control which they did successfully. Deficit was therefore £23k compared to £25k in 2020. CB thanked the team for achieving this result under very difficult circumstances.
- Because of the link between member subscriptions and our income, and because there will not be any more grants, we are expecting a further fall in income in 2022. We are being canny about use of available funds and we can dip into reserves. The expectation is that in 2023 and 2024 the leisure time music sector will recover and finances will get back onto a basis much more like pre-pandemic levels.

Clare Birks asked for questions on the accounts, and none were asked.

Celia Burton (Derby Bach Choir) proposed that the financial statements and the reports of the directors and auditors were accepted, this was seconded by Pamela Harper (Perth Chamber Music Society)

A poll to accept the financial statements and the reports of the directors and auditors appeared on Zoom. The minutes were accepted *nem con*, including 5 proxy votes cast by Clare Birks.

The financial statements and the reports of the directors and auditors for the year ended 31 December 2021 were accepted.

3. Clare Birks asked that the Board be authorised to appoint the auditors. This was proposed by Diana Barnes (Southampton Choral Society) and seconded by Cathy Guthrie (Haddo Arts).

A poll to authorise the board to appoint the auditors appeared on Zoom. The motion was accepted *nem con*, including 5 proxy votes cast by Clare Birks.

The Board were authorised to appoint the auditors.

4. Clare Birks asked that the Board be authorised to agree the auditors' remuneration. This was proposed by Angela Walker (Chesterfield Philharmonic Choir) and seconded by Pamela Harper (Perth Chamber Music Society).

A poll to authorise the board to agree the auditors' remuneration appeared on Zoom. The motion was accepted *nem con*, including 5 proxy votes cast by Clare Birks.

The Board were authorised to agree the auditors' remuneration.

5. The result of the elections to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Music Societies was announced. Barbara Eifler noted that there were 4 vacancies on the Board of Directors this year; 1 casual vacancy created when Celeste Berteau resigned, and the other 3 created by the standing down in rotation of Board members as per Articles of Association.

Barbara announced the successful candidates, namely:

Dorothy Wilson (previous Chair)

Rob Guest (previous Board Member)

Andrew Rixon (previous Board Member)

Nick James (new Board Member, based in Wales, member of Rohndda Symphony Orchestra)

Those candidates were appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Music Societies.

Clare Birks expressed her gratitude to all who had participated in the election.

6. Clare Birks then invited the raising of any other business, submitted in advance or via the chat function.

No other business had been submitted in advance.

Richard Powne (Bradford Concert Band) - RP noted that in the accounts, the number of Making Music employees is only 12, yet the amount of work done over a range of topics is quite extraordinary. RP gave congratulations and thanks.

Sally Whytehead (Nonsuch Dulcimer Club) - SW proposed a formal vote of thanks to the Making Music staff team, seconded by Diana Barnes (Southampton Choral Society). The meeting indicated they were all in agreement.

The meeting extended a formal vote of thanks to the Making Music staff team.

7. There were no further questions from members present and there being no further notified business, the meeting closed at 7.05 pm.