



**Registered Charity No: 29425**

**MINUTES OF THE ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD AT ST  
LAWRENCE CHURCH ALTON  
ON TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 2.00 PM**

Ser	Subject	Lead	Confirmatory Notes
1	Introduction	Sec	Secretary welcomed everyone to the 2023 AGM. However, despite widespread notification of the AGM, only committee members were present.
2	Apologies for absence	Sec	Rev Andrew Micklefield
3	Minutes of the AGM held at St Lawrence Church on Tuesday 8 November 2022	Sec	Following a summary by the Hon Sec and individual perusal of copies of the minutes, these were passed as an accurate record of the 2022 meeting.
4	Matters arising from the minutes	All	Sec to follow up action and to notify the Parish Treasurer, Craig Stolton, that the Society wished to transfer ownership of the pedal cam - funded by the Society - to the Parish assets.

5	<p>Treasurer's Statement including appointment of an Independent Examiner</p> <p>Proposed - Tony Willman Seconded - Graham Howe</p>	Treasurer	<p>Chris Toms was thanked for all the years he acted as Examiner and has now stood down on health grounds. Lisa Long has kindly agreed to take over the role of examiner and, additionally, has offered new layout of accounts. The difference between restricted and unrestricted accounts was defined. Door receipts were slightly down owing to the because of extra concert. More donation were received including £1,000 + £20 for maintenance of the organ. Peter Ashworth donated £1,000 and an anonymous donation of £500 + £5 at the door. Interest has increased by £72.59. Money from CD sales has been included as a restricted account. Income £7,555.09. Expenditure was £6470.84 - £2400 recitalists down from ££3795. Previous year there was an extra concert and DH fee of £700. Gen expenses £303.98 were down from £566.90. Bank balance (Unrest. £22975.72 + rest. £9500.00 = total of £32055.72) which includes sale of CDs. Elspeth asked to include totals to make it easier to trace. The Society is financially healthy. It was agreed to adopt Lisa Long as our Examiner and the committee thanked Lisa for agreeing to take up this post.</p>
6	<p>Review of the 2022/2023 Season of Organ Concerts</p>	Sec	<p>The 2022/2023 Season of organ concerts included Colin Walsh, David Davies, Ben Bloor, Sachin Gunga, Katherine Dienes Williams, Mark Shepherd, Travis Baker and Luke Bond. The consensus was that it was a very successful season comprising very high quality concerts and wide variety of programmes. The committee members wished to highlight Ben and Luke who performed for the Society for the first time. Overall, they were of an excellent standard and with personality to match. It was emphasised how important it is for visiting organists to engage with the audience and talk about their programme or provide written programme notes.</p>

7	Review of admission fee and season membership	All	<p>Admission currently stands at £10 per concert and £60 for Season membership; equivalent to £7.50 for each concert. Current season membership stand at 19. It was recommended we mention at the Nov concert that potential applicants for could pay £40 for (the rest of 2023/2024) season membership. Current admission has remained virtually unchanged in 10 years and with inflation it is time to consider an increase. Nonetheless, £10 is currently a convenient figure but a rise is, sooner or later, inevitable as organists' fees will increase. It was recommend that season membership should be increased next season to £64 which is equivalent to £8.00 per concert - still very good value. Committee members were urged to give thought to increasing the current £10. Further delay could act as a "shock" to attendees and deter future attendance among some regulars. Elspeth mentioned that one could check with the Musicians Union the rate for all instrumentalists and singers. A jump to £15 was considered excessive and counter productive.</p>
8	Appointment of Committee Members & Trustees	Sec	<p>Current committee members present at the meeting were content to remain in post:</p> <p>Desmond Boddington  Graham Howe  Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney  Gerald Marlow  Tony Willman</p>

9	Update on the restoration of the St Lawrence Church organ	Sec	<p>Tony updated all regarding the progress so far to restore the organ. We have had detailed reports from Harrison &amp; Harrison (H&amp;H), York Pipes and Mander. Most organisations take on work in priority order of application after placing a deposit (usually 10% of the total cost) to secure a start date. We shall engage Paul Hale as an organ builder consultant who has already supplied very useful advice. The long awaited visit and report from another organ building company run by Michael Farley - who Paul rates highly - finally took place in July and October respectively. Meanwhile, the Parish and PCC with Elspeth acting as the link to the PCC plan to start a formal fund raising project. Tony is in the process of providing a brief for the PCC. There is some difficulty placing a cost on the many exclusions such as scaffolding, temp organ, transport to and from workshops, accommodation of workers when on site, repair to church fabric and so on. However, Tony will approach Paul Hale and Michael Farley to see if they offer "guesstimates". If Michael Farley is contracted to do the work, they could start towards the end of 2024. Also to be included in the report are details about use of the organ and church for the local community i.e. concerts, workshops, lessons and so on.</p>
10	Any other business	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elspeth suggest an in memoriam concert (either one off or annual) for former Chairman, Peter Ashworth to express our appreciation in all work he did towards the success of the Society virtually throughout its existence. Suggested organists were David Hill or Martin Baker. Gerald offered to approach Martin who is our new Patron, made a wonderful musical contribution to Peter's memorial service and seems keen to engage with the Society.</li> <li>2. Committee members were asked to give some thought and discuss at the next committee meeting whether we should reorganise the dates and timings of future organ concerts? Ideas were to avoid the worst of winter months, consider lunchtime concerts, start concerts earlier etc. Depending on when restorative work starts on the organ and the duration will influence decisions about future dates and timings of organ concerts.</li> <li>3. The legal document sent by Regent Records Ltd regarding the exclusive rights for the distribution of certain master recordings of David Hill's CD was not that clear to those without legal understanding. Elspeth offered to approach a legal colleague for assistance.</li> </ol>

11			Meeting ended at 3.20 pm but some committee members remained to discuss other non AGM matters.
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AP WILLMAN  
Sec Committee Members

Rev Andrew Micklefield - President  
Gerald Marlow - Treasurer  
Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney - Publicity & press reviews  
Graham Howe - Member  
Des Boddington - Member  
Tony Willman - Secretary & Programmes