

MINUTES OF FAKENHAM TOWN BAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 28 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.45PM VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM

PRESENT: Trevor Wright (Chairman), Steve Wakefield, Catherine Moore (Minutes), Trish Hays, Mark Hays, Dean Davies, Keith Sharples, Julie Long, Wendy Bailey, Simon Moore, Stuart Grout, Chris Hamel-Cooke, Mike Coates (Fakenham Town Council)

APOLOGIES: Stevie Baxter, Caroline Dawson,

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD 30TH JANUARY 2020 were agreed and would be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

REPORTS

Chairman: Trevor Wright reported that it had been a terrible year for the band, who had not met since March 2020 with no return back imminent. He thanked Steve and Catherine for putting together the virtual contest submissions to keep the band together. He hoped that the band would be able to meet again in the summer. Trevor explained that he didn't participate in the virtual band as he found it really difficult to play outside of the group, but commended those who had taken part.

Booking Secretary: Catherine Moore reported that there had been no engagements in 2020 due to Covid. The Band had entered the Cory Band contest in September 2020, winning best bass section in the 4th Section.

Senior Musical Director: Steve Wakefield reported that at the last AGM we were preparing for the Songs of Praise, but there were early indications that things were getting worse. Thursford was cancelled, quickly followed by rehearsals stopping. It's actually been a really busy year for banding, but in a very different way. Support for and between band members during the pandemic has been great. However more replies would be liked to the emails that are sent, it's more important now than ever. Thanks should go to the Town Council for supporting the Band through the year, when we have been able to use the band room or outside space, they had been very accommodating. Steve thanked Alan for being at the band room, keeping an eye on things. Steve also thanked the Cory Band for putting out the idea of virtual banding, and for putting on the contest – it's been inspiring. Also thanks to Catherine for putting together the audio files, having started very small and grown with it. There has been more publicity this year with press and radio, reaching a global audience. Zoom is a new thing, the band has been meeting online every week as well as committee meetings, which has kept the band together. Thanks also to Brass Band England who have steered the banding world through the pandemic with risk assessments and method statements, and making these available for free.

Steve was confident that rehearsals would be able to take place outside in summer 2021. He felt that brass banding could come out stronger than ever.

Treasurer: Julie Long presented the accounts, noting that there were several subscriptions outstanding. The band had £9,032.61 in the bank on 31st December 2020. It was noted that the arrears on subscriptions was getting worse, and all members were asked to pay up to date and to set up a standing order for this, or speak to a committee member if they were experiencing hardship. Last years accounts included all of the outstanding engagement fees and donations from 2019, however the band didn't have this luxury going into 2021.

Mike Coates suggested that an application could be made to the Market Tolls for funding.

Steve noted that the videos were outsourced at a cost, these are now around £180 per video. The band reserves were for a rainy day, which had now arrived.

Junior Musical Director: Trish Hays reported that nothing had happened since March, and Trish did plan to make contact with the learners.

Band Manager: Trish Hays echoed the thanks for the involvement in the contest, sending in videos and getting them done.

Librarian: Simon Moore reported that Alan continued to do his job at the band room, Simon had only been four times since March. Some new packs with challenging music had been seen. Music had been distributed and members were asked to make sure that they didn't lose it.

Safeguarding Officer: Rhiannon West would be attending the Brass Band England safeguarding course.

Publicity Officer: Simon Moore reported that there had been a lot of coverage on the internet, Facebook, YouTube etc bringing a worldwide audience. Jingle Bells was featured on Radio Norfolk and was good to play as our normal finale. The whole video presentation was excellent. The Band had featured on the Fakenham Virtual Christmas Lights as well. Unity was important at this time, and hopefully 2021 would become a better year.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Adult: Steve Wakefield noted that the trophy couldn't be presented in person unfortunately. Steve noted that this person put a lot of effort into making her recordings, it was very apparent that a lot of tears and frustration had gone into producing good recordings which always turned out exceptionally well. The award was made to **Hayley Baxter**. Steve noted that the whole Baxter family were always the first to get their recordings in, and all made a good effort which contributed towards the final recordings.

Junior: No award made as the Junior Band had not been active during the year.

Best Dressed Bandsman: Trish Hays noted that the award was based on virtual recordings:

5th place: Mark Hays in his half ironed shirt, as the back wasn't going to be seen

4th place: Hayley Baxter with no shoes in a contest recording

3rd place: Chris' lockdown pony tail

2nd place: Catherine Moore for blue flip flops in a contest recording

1st place Caroline for stripping on video!!! The award was made to **Caroline Dawson**.

REVIEW OF BAND RULES

There were no changes proposed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Position	Elected	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairman	Trevor Wright	Dean Davies	Keith Sharples
Vice Chairman	Steve Wakefield	Dean Davies	Stuart Grout
Booking & Minutes Secretary	Catherine Moore	Trevor Wright	Dean Davies
Senior Musical Director	Steve Wakefield	Trevor Wright	Julie Long
Assistant Senior Musical Director	Hannah Baxter	Steve Wakefield	Trish Hays
Band Manager	Trish Hays	Julie Long	Dean Davies

Treasurer	Julie Long	Dean Davies	Trevor Wright
Librarian	Simon Moore	Trevor Wright	Keith Sharples
Junior Musical Director	Trish Hays	Trevor Wright	Stephen Wakefield
Publicity Officer	Simon Moore	Stephen Wakefield	Catherine Moore
Safeguarding Officer	No nominations	SW to speak with Rhiannon	
Committee Member	Steve Baxter	Trevor Wright	Simon Moore
Committee Member	Mark Hays	Trevor Wright	Simon Moore
Committee Member	Brian Wheelhouse	Trevor Wright	Simon Moore
Committee Member	Keith Sharples	Trevor Wright	Simon Moore
Band Support Officer	Alan Gibson	<i>Non-committee position</i>	

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Keith asked whether the band had considered entering the Virtual Whit Friday contest? It was felt that yes, the band would probably enter as we now have the material and skills. Work on improving the march audio could be done as a lot had been learned since then.

Mike Coates congratulated the band on carrying on regardless despite the pandemic.

Trevor asked whether the 140th anniversary celebrations would put off for a year. This would be discussed during the year and decisions made as time went on. The band could possibly do an anniversary video of a live rehearsal. It was suggested that the website and Facebook could be updated this year to reflect the 140th year.

Jingle Bells was the penultimate piece at the BrassFest virtual Christmas concert in December, it was a good video and playing. Deps had helped out on virtual recordings which was appreciated. There would be a few new faces on the next recordings.

Steve remembered Brian Lewis, who used to play in the band, and whose son Graham played and wife Margaret was a great supporter of the band. Brian died a month ago.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting would be scheduled once lockdown restrictions were more clear, and there may be business to discuss.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: