

MINUTES OF FAKENHAM TOWN BAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 30TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30PM AT TRAP LANE PAVILION

PRESENT: Simon Moore (Chairman), Steve Wakefield, Catherine Moore (Minutes), Trish Hays, Mark Hays, Alan Gibson, Peter Dixon, Brian Wheelhouse, Wendy Bailey, Amy Evans, Robert Barber, Trevor Wright, Graham Lewis, Dean Davies, Rowland, Pippa Cook, Caroline Dawson, Julie Long

APOLOGIES: Paul Baxter, Adele Meakin, Julie Long, David Preston

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD 25TH JANUARY 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTES OF THE EGM HELD 24TH APRIL 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: None.

REPORTS

Chairman: Simon Moore thanks Trevor Wright for the time he had spent as Chairman. Simon reported that Fakenham Town Council had communicated that they felt that they were no longer the Band's Trustees, and had not been since 1972. The legal advice had been challenged, and formal communication requested from the Council rather than an individual councillor. The Band Room Working Group had been looking at new rehearsal venues, with a shortlist of venues to try, the first being Colkirk Village Hall. Simon thanked the Working Group for their efforts so far. It was noted that the Band has enjoyed subsidised hire since the 1980's, and the cost of hire would be significantly increasing going forward. This needed to be met by commitment to engagements, otherwise subscriptions would have to return.

The other significant area of work in the year had been the Safeguarding Policy and all the other work that surrounded that. Caroline and Brian were thanked for their substantial work in that area. Finally, Simon thanked Steve Wakefield for his dedication to the Band and the Committee for their contributions.

Booking Secretary: Catherine Moore reported that the band had done 24 engagements in 2024, of which 14 were during the Christmas period. We have a number of engagement requests already in for 2025.

Senior Musical Director: Steve Wakefield reported that he was always planning ahead for the seasons and concerts, and asked people to do their preparation and put in their best performances. There were lots of things to look forward to including a trip to Southend, and a potential concert at Wells Lifeboat House. A couple of players had been lost in the year, and there had been some new faces coming in. The band was looking good for the future.

Junior Musical Director: Trevor Wright reported that the Junior Band was progressing really well, with young and adult learners. There continued to be a practice of main band music for those who wanted extra rehearsal. There would be two adult learners starting next week, so it was looking very positive. Trevor suggested that it should be called a Training or Development Band rather than a Junior Band.

The proposal to change the name of the Junior Band to Fakenham Town Training Band, proposed by Trevor Wright, seconded by Caroline Dawson, 11 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions, motion carried. The Rules and Website would be amended to reflect this.

ACTION: CM / DP

Band Manager: Trish Hays thanked everyone for their support during the past year, which was appreciated.

Librarian: Simon Moore thanked Alan for his contributions, he had been with the band for many years going back to lighting the fires and sorting music at Church Lanes. Members were asked to bring their Christmas music back. The library would be going into stacked plastic boxes which had been purchased, and the packs would be refreshed with the maximum number of pieces of music, together with putting together a Christmas pack early in the year as it might not be readily available. It was suggested that a price could be obtained for digitally storing the library, which could potentially be funded.

Safeguarding Officer: Caroline Dawson thanked Brian for all the work he had put into Safeguarding over the last year, there had been a lot of work to bring the Safeguarding to compliance.

Brian Wheelhouse reported that significant work had seen a Code of Conduct adopted, together with a Safeguarding Policy and other documents. Appropriate storage had been put in place and Phase 2 was now underway which included DBS checks and training. Phase 3 would look to the requirements for the Child Performing Licence. Policies had been created using guidance from Brass Band England.

Treasurer: Julie Long presented the accounts, thanking Catherine for sorting out the accounts. There was two outstanding engagement fees. Subscriptions may have to be reintroduced at some point as hire costs would increase. The funds in the bank was £15,180.59.

Julie was looking at banking arrangements, which needed to be failsafe in terms of signatories. It was noted that some people had made additional donations towards band costs.

Simon noted that some deps had to be paid, and this was a big hit on the engagement fee. Simon thanked Julie for her work on the accounts.

Publicity Officer: Dave was not well and had not been able to send a report.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Adult: Steve Wakefield had looked through the band for high achievers, and this person always came to Band when he could. The Award was made to Peter Dixon.

Junior: Trevor Wright noted that one person who had really developed was Erin on the trombone. The Award would be made to Erin at the next Training Band.

Best Dressed Bandsman: Trish Hays noted that one person had been very well dressed was David Preston. This would be presented at the next rehearsal.

REVIEW OF BAND RULES

The Rules were available at www.fakenhamtownband.com/info

A number of changes had been circulated on tracked changes, relating to new committee roles around Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Trusteeship, noting that Fakenham Town Council's view was that the Trustee relationship was extinguished in 1972. It was felt that the Band was better off without the Trusteeship as it had some concerning clauses. It was **agreed** to remove '(2) Trusteeship' and accept that Fakenham Town Council were no longer Trustees, proposed by Graham Lewis, seconded by Steve Wakefield all in favour. This then deleted 'two representatives of the trustees' from (4) Annual General Meetings.

The role of Deputy Band Manager including Health and Safety Officer was **agreed**, proposed by Simon Moore, seconded by Caroline Dawson, all in favour.

The line 'Any new rule... was removed from (15) Amendment of the Rules, proposed by Graham Lewis, seconded by Dean Davies, all in favour.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Position	Elected	Nominated by	Seconded by
----------	---------	--------------	-------------

Chairman	Simon Moore	Dean Davies	Graham Lewis
Vice Chairman	Graham Lewis	Steve Wakefield	Simon Moore
Booking & Minutes Secretary	Catherine Moore	Julie Long	Steve Wakefield
Senior Musical Director	Steve Wakefield	Peter Dixon	Dean Davies
Assistant Senior Musical Director	Peter Dixon	Steve Wakefield	Simon Moore
Band Manager	Trish Hays	Simon Moore	Julie Long
Deputy Band Manager incl. Health & Safety	Brian Wheelhouse	Caroline Dawson	Catherine Moore
Treasurer	Julie Long	Steve Wakefield	Simon Moore
Librarian	Simon Moore	Catherine Moore	Wendy Bailey
Junior Musical Director	Trevor Wright	Steve Wakefield	Robert Barber
Publicity Officer	David Preston	Steve Wakefield	Caroline Dawson
Safeguarding Officer	Caroline Dawson	Dean Davies	Brian Wheelhouse
Committee Member	Steve Baxter	Julie Long	Trevor Wright
Committee Member	Mark Hays	Simon Moore	Trish Hays
Band Support Officer	Alan Gibson	<i>Non-committee position</i>	

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Legal Status of Fakenham Town Band

Graham Lewis noted that a tremendous legacy had been left to the existing members, and the whole set up of the organisation was good. However the band did not have a legal status such as a charity. This had presented challenges, such as not having a rental agreement; and being unable to sign a lease for an alternative venue. The viable options were a charity or a Community Interest Company, and Graham was happy to advise the Committee on the pros and cons of each. There could be greater opportunities for eg grant funding. Graham proposed that the Committee would evaluate the options and bring a proposal back to the Band via an EGM, seconded by Simon Moore, all in favour.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting would be Friday 28th February 2025 at 7.30pm at Trap Lane.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed:

Dated: