

DULWICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP

MEETING 9 May 2011: MINUTES

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Jeremy Crump (convenor), Chris Burns, Jane Howard, Nikki Jackson, Roland McCabe

Apologies: Peter Watkins, Frances Barrett, Caroline Annesley, and Ian Finn

2. Minutes of the meeting of 4 April

paper: CWG3 minutes

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Substantive consideration of proposals to amend the constitution

The WG noted Frances Barrett's email of 9 May drawing attention to Making Music's statement about the Charity Commission's new category of Charitable Incorporated Organisation (ICO), which Making Music considered may be of interest to many amateur and voluntary music organisations. The WG considered but did not adopt Frances' proposal that, in view of this, the WG should cease business and that the Orchestra should not consider changes to the constitution until the issue of adopting ICO status could be considered.

In declining the suggestion, the WG took into account:

- The remit from the AGM to consider the proposals made to it
- The complexity of the ICO issue, the need to take advice on it, and the lack of detailed MM guidance
- The likelihood that proposals to adopt the status would not be available for some time, and certainly not before the next AGM
- The possibility that any changes made to the present constitution would be relevant to any future constitution too.

There should however be reference to this issue in the WG's report.

The working group continued line by line consideration of the amendments proposed in the parallel text version of the constitution (CWG2/2).

The group considered amendments V,W and Y-Ab. In addition, the WG considered the 5 proposals in Laura Bradley's note of 20 October (CWG1/2).

The group also agreed to withdraw the amendment A (Objects)

A summary of all the actions agreed for inclusion in the draft report and substantive comments made on each amendment is attached in the table in CWG4 Minutes (annex),

With the conclusion of the consideration of the specific amendments, the following actions were agreed:

- The convenor would draft a report for discussion at the meeting on 23 May. It should be circulated a week in advance to members of the WG.
- The drafting of reasons for not accepting amendments should be succinct whilst still making sense to readers.
- The report should reflect the view that a lot of the purpose of the proposed amendments would be achieved through promoting an atmosphere of trust and by applying a spirit of openness and inclusiveness to the business of the committee.
- The WQG would write to Laura Bradley on her suggestions. Convenor to draft a note for consideration at next WG meeting.

4. Any other business

There were no items of other business.

5. Date of next meeting

23 May 2011.

Annex (a)

Text of email from Frances Barrett to J Crump, 9 May.

... Ian has now heard from Making Music about the new charity structure and they have issued a statement about it (here):

<http://www.makingmusic.org.uk/our-services/advice/charities/cio>

Making Music seem to think this structure is likely to be appropriate for most amateur music groups, so it is likely that we would become one in due course. Rather than spend the members' time changing the constitution now I think we should wait until Making Music produce their guidelines and look at changing the constitution then.

Bearing this in mind, could I ask the Working Group to consider the following proposal this evening?

"In view of the impending introduction of a new legal structure for charities, the Incorporated Charitable Organisation, we propose to defer any consideration of constitutional change for the DSO until we are in a position to consider converting to this type of organisation".