Upbeat! and Offbeat! Choirs
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
3 September 2026 at 7.30pm
Grundisburgh Village Hall

Present: Graham Bosher (Chair), Sarah Ray (Vice Chair), Carol McConnell-Theobald (Musical Director), Julie Vowles (Treasurer), Helen Gosling (Secretary), Anna Greenwood (Events Secretary), Sara Brook (PR & Publicity Officer) and 39 members

Apologies: Pip Alder, Julie Attwater, Rose Bacon, Jo Eley, Helen Ellerby, John Ellerby, Sally Handley, Pat Keep, Davina Marshall, Ann Mason, Lisa McKensie, Katy Moon, Lee Rawlings, Ruth Rawlings, Sue Simpson, Alistair Turk, Ali Tyler-Nunn, Sally Watts

Graham Bosher opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and briefly outlining the format for the AGM. Val Crouch asked that the Committee introduce themselves, to which Graham apologised and each Committee member gave their name and role.

Graham confirmed, that following last year's AGM the Upbeat! website had been extended to include a link to include Offbeat! Graham also stated that following the AGM Carol had undertaken a leaflet drop, primarily to the new houses in Grundisburgh to promote Offbeat!

Graham asked the floor to sign off the minutes as a true representation of the meeting. This motion was proposed by Tony Field and seconded by Gill Twissell.

Musical Director's Report
Carol McConnell-Theobald then gave her Musical Directors report. She gave a brief summary of the events that the choirs had taken part in over the last year.

We paid tribute to Roz Todd by singing The Rose and You Raise me Up at her funeral.

Our Christmas Concerts were very successful and enabled us to support three charities – Eden Rose Coppice, Trust East Suffolk Prostate Cancer Support Group and Fore get me not Golf.

In February Carol and Graham Bosher were interviewed by Louise Hulland of Radio Suffolk to promote Offbeat! Sadly, no new recruits were gained from that interview.

In March some of the Offbeat! men and Carol went along to The Dog to try to recruit, but again no success there!

In June we held our Summer Concerts with the hottest temperatures we have ever experienced. After carrying out risk assessments, the concerts went ahead but with hydration stations and extra breaks during the performance. Carol commented how resilient everyone had been and thanked the choir members.

The concerts were followed by a smaller group of choir members singing for a charity event at Warren Farm Barn in Otley which was very successful.

Just before the summer break, Carol held an informal Offbeat! rehearsal, providing drinks and nibbles and this resulted in two new members joining Offbeat! This is something Carol hopes to try again.

Carol stated that last week we started rehearsals for our Christmas Concerts and commented that it always feels strange singing Christmas music in the summer but remarked that time is always so limited between now and our Christmas concerts.

Carol concluded her report by thanking each of the Committee Members for their hard work, help and support during the year.

Secretary's Report

Helen Gosling then gave her Secretary's Report. She confirmed that currently we have 75 ladies in Upbeat! comprising 40 sopranos and 35 altos, and 21 men in Offbeat! with 9 tenors and 12 basses.

Helen then mentioned that music management continues to be her main role and asked that members return their music as soon as possible after a concert and that if anyone decided to leave the choir to return their music and folder.

Helen reported that last summer Carol had identified some music that we no longer needed and we were able to sell over 500 pieces of music. This was time consuming but felt it was worthwhile and freed up a little space in the cupboard. Helen commented that it was planned to continue to try and do this.

Helen also reminded members that email is our main form of communication so asked that choir members keep her up to date with email addresses and to read the emails we send out. She highlighted the fact that Anna sends out a brilliant termly newsletter, which includes lots of information. Helen also mentioned that our website is kept up to date by Sara and contains our Constitution, AGM minutes and other useful information.

Helen concluded by asking members to ensure that they tick their names off on the registers when they attend Choir each week. This is particularly important in the event of an emergency.

Treasurer's Report

Julie Vowles then gave her Treasurer's report. She started by saying that last year's accounts were duly assessed and signed off as true and accurate by Mike Butcher of MBA Accounts in Woodbridge. She then gave an overview of the income and expenditure for the choirs.

Both Upbeat! and Offbeat! are maintaining numbers and the income from subs has remained constant at £16,273 year ending 31st July 2026. Julie reported that £8569.57 was generated from concert performances, sale of music and fairy light hire, this was a decrease from last year which was £11,596.74. The total income for the year was £26,076.57 as opposed to £29,236.74 in the previous year. Expenditure has risen from £26,358.54 to £29,659.54, but this does include the donations to charity which have increased significantly from £6,400 to £10,250. Julie concluded that at the year end the cash at bank is £7,719.92.

Julie confirmed that the cost of subs at £60 per term is to remain unchanged and if membership continues at the present level the income forecast for the current years looks set to reflect that of this

year. Julie concluded her report saying that it is hoped to equal or see further increases to the charitable donations at 31st July 2027.

Tony Field raised a point of order asking whether the members should vote to approve the Treasurer's report. Graham said that he wasn't aware that this was necessary but would check this out.

(Following the meeting, Graham concluded that there is typically no vote to formally approve or accept a routine Treasurer's report at an AGM unless it is written into our choir's constitution, however if the accounts have been reviewed and verified by an independent auditor then members attending the AGM should vote to approve or adopt the auditor's report (stating that the accounts have been verified). This is something that can be incorporated into our AGM next year)

Membership Fees
Graham confirmed, as Julie had just mentioned, that subs would remain at £60 per term going forward.

Election of Committee
Graham asked Helen whether she had received any nominations for the Committee Posts. Helen reported that there had been no nominations. Graham therefore asked the floor whether they were happy for the current Committee to be re-elected en bloc. This motion was proposed by Gill Twissell and seconded by Tony Field. The motion was unanimously passed by the AGM and the Committee duly elected.

Matters Sent to the Secretary
Helen confirmed that she had received none.

Graham then thanked everyone for attending the AGM and declared the meeting closed.

Following the AGM, the members were invited to give any feedback or raise issues with the Committee. This open session was not minuted.

Helen Gosling
Secretary
21.09.26