

37. Draft Minutes Steerers meeting 30th July 2026

Chair; Liz Newman Apologies: Chris Mapp

1. Minutes of meeting on 1st June 2026 approved

2. Matters Arising

2.1 No need for any more general flyers to be printed. Pauline still has a large stock of them, with the correct contact email address on. **Pauline will bring some to the next rehearsal** so each steerer can have a small stash to hand out as appropriate.

We need an electronic (pdf?) version to send to any organisation booking us for a gig - for them to use for their publicity. **Pauline will ask her print shop to send Fritjof an electronic version**, as he is liaising with Thornbury Stroke support who are the next gig.

2.2 Lyn has spoken to Katie Kennedy about 1. more clogging and 2. the possibility of percussionist son Peter being able to sub for Bobby if there is a gig she cannot manage. No need to take it any further at the moment, but **Liz will ask Bobby to write notes on her percussion line** in the event that we need a sub for a gig.

2.3 consider whether we need to recruit new members after the September open rehearsal.

2.4 No-one volunteered to organise a summer social. Fritjof suggested a winter social consisting of an extended rehearsal with party pieces.

3. Reviews

3.1 Emersons Green - small but appreciative audience in a heatwave – good to have Bobby. Dance good, singing enjoyed. Meg's flute broke, Judy's clutch broke, Maureen ill, so down on wind therefore thin at one point – some mistakes on numbers of times through and arrangements. We felt good and well cared for but our large-for-us fee versus the audience didn't really give the organiser value for money – but that's not our problem. The organiser returned the feedback form which was very positive. It looked garbled as if it was difficult to fill in. **Fritjof will work out if there is a way to make it easier to complete** (nb the form on the website is already a pdf)

3.2 Pensford Evergreens. Still to receive the feedback form from the organiser but very positive from audience on the night. Some mistakes but some triumphs, and overall we sounded quite professional which may be due to using the same set of tunes for the summer gigs. Low basses weak as no Angela, Heather, Nick, but coped. Good wind intros and playing with only Meg and Judy available. P. E. have asked us to come back next year. **Lyn will do a straw poll at the next rehearsal to see if members are in favour**. For further away gigs, we should do more to arrange shared lifts (agenda item another time)

4. Future gigs/events

NB Liz and Alison have discussed autumn/christmas/winter tunes – there will be 1 or 2 new ones, and a list of old ones to revive/arrange from which Liz will select for gigs. Alison is having another baby, due January 2027, and has asked Matt to take the 24th January and 21st February 2027 rehearsals. (Many congratulations Alison and Chris)

4.1 Open rehearsal 20th September

Alison has thought through the format and tunes carefully. These are her points. A. It will focus on some new tunes, and some of BVB's old tunes which do not have existing arrangements. This is so that band members and newcomers will be on the same footing. B. Once the rehearsal list is on the website, Alison would like band members to identify anything in the tunes offered which they have found difficult and to let her or a steerer know in advance what the difficulty is. C. There will also be

a tune which the band plays confidently to show newcomers how good the band can sound!

D. Please bring friends and be patient and welcoming to newcomers.

Heather will get 100 flyers printed ready to give to members at the August rehearsal for them to hand out. Dai and John M will advertise it to folkies on the Folk at Pill and Old Mill Session whatsapp groups. **Lyn will discuss with Heather** what to say to band members at the August rehearsal about advertising the open rehearsal, and what it will consist of.

4.2 Thornbury Stroke Support. **Fritjof will send an electronic version of our general flyer** to the organiser for publicity purposes. (see 2.1 above)

5. Search for more gigs? Not between now and the end of 2026. Review it for 2027 in November. Lyn and Liz went to the Winterbourne Barn Medieval day a few weeks ago and left a flyer with them. **Lyn will go back to the Community Harvest Day on 10th October** to follow up with them whether they would like us for the harvest day in 2027.

6. Treasurer's report. The bank balance 2 days ago was £2,481.29. At the financial year end (31 August), the balance is likely to be around £2,250 - £2,275, as there are some currently unquantified expenses to take into account.

7. Members. People wanting to try us out at trial rehearsals should contact BVB via Fritjof (the email address on the website). We need to know, and can then arrange to supply music (not by giving them access to the website!) and team them up with a buddy from the same section.

AOB: we discussed looking for another rehearsal venue with good parking and public transport links, not too expensive, and maybe towards the north of Bristol to make it easier for northerly members to get to. Fritjof mentioned the venue in Sea Mills that Bristol Harmony use which they find very satisfactory. **Lyn will investigate venues generally.**

Date of next meeting:

Steerers – Thursday 10th September 10.30am by zoom, Fritjof to chair

AGM – after rehearsal on 8th November, Lyn to take minutes, Liz to chair