

Bowes Park Community Choir
(draft) Minutes of committee meeting
at 74 Powys Lane, N13
on 10th January 2026

Attendees: (names in colour indicates action is needed)

Jane Larter (Chair)

Amanda Shacham

Julie Tang-Evans

Susan Merriman

Viv Collins

Lucy Love

Marta Buszewicz

Karin Ilsen

Francis Hawkey

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from previous committee meeting held on 01 Nov 2025
2. Review of concert
3. Venues and dates for future concerts and local events
4. Learning tracks
5. Taking the core repertoire forward
6. Workshops
7. Any other business

Agenda Item 1: Approve minutes from previous committee meeting held on 01 Nov 2025

- Key points discussed:

- a) Current repertoire: everyone is happy with the content.
- b) Insurance: Susan confirmed the choir is insured for the year.
- c) PAT testing: **Jane** to confirm that everything BPCC uses has been tested.
- d) Job descriptions: Jane is working on revised job descriptions for the outstanding committee roles. There has been no interest in the role for social media which Julie Isherwood is currently doing. **Jane** will ask her whether she is prepared to continue to do it.

Minutes approved and **Susan** will upload to website.

Agenda Item 2: Review of winter concert

Key points discussed:

a) The piano at St Peter's was not good enough despite the extra charge paid to have it tuned before the concert.

The area for the choir was very cramped but it was agreed the setting was lovely and the after party was very sociable and it worked really well with all the sections providing alcohol and soft drinks and the choir funding the mince pies and nibbles.

b) It was agreed that as we're growing in numbers, we should try to book St Andrew's church for the 2026 winter concert. Despite no car park Julie thinks there is plenty of parking in Windermere Road.

c) Performance: The general view was that a couple of pieces of the repertoire were a bit under-rehearsed. **Jane** will ask Vicente to revisit the music more regularly and she will make regular contact with him regarding the schedule. It was agreed it would be easier for the summer concert as rehearsals are over 2 terms.

d) HYM charity: It was agreed **Susan** would round up the amount the charity raised (£375) to £500 from the profit from the ticket sales.

Agenda Item 3: Venues and dates for future concerts and local events

Key points discussed:

To book summer concert 2026 at APS and check availability with St Andrews for the winter concert. Julie wondered whether we might look at moving the summer concert to a weekend. The general view was it should be put to the choir for the future. Suggested dates of either 9th or 16th July were discussed but 9th July at APS was agreed.

Jane will contact St Andrew's re availability for the winter concert.

Agenda Item 4: Learning tracks

Key points discussed:

a) To make more use of You Tube videos to aid learning pieces and also suggest to members that they make their own recordings of rehearsals although it was agreed this can be problematic when there is a lot of stopping and starting.

b) Vicente will produce learning tracks for the 2 pieces he's arranging.

c) Susan pointed out that the cost of commissioning learning tracks has increased significantly in recent years.

d) **Marta** will speak to Vicente to ask him which learning tracks require 1st and 2nd soprano/alto parts as these make it more expensive to commission. It was anticipated we would need a maximum of 8 with 7 agreed as:

I am the Rose of Sharon
Jesu Dulcis Memoria
Vois sur ton chemin
Why do the roses whisper
West Side Story
Heyr himna smiour
Linden Lea (possibly)

Agenda Item 5: Taking the core repertoire forward

Key points discussed:

- a) The plan is to try to sing at more local events. Jane pointed out that in March 2027, Haringey will be the borough of culture so this might bring more opportunities for the choir.
- b) As there are only pdfs available it was agreed we would need to choose pieces from the existing library of pdfs.
- c) Susan has updated the links on the committee music section of the website.
- d) A list for the core repertoire was compiled (pieces chosen in bold):

Homeward Bound
Lion Sleeps Tonight
Briefcase full of Blues - score booklet*
Joyful, Joyful – printed sheet*
Feed the Birds – printed sheet*
Summer Time
Parting Glass - pdfs available
The Wellerman - pdfs available
Shalom Chavarim
Viva Tutte
Favourite Things

*Currently in storage.

Agenda Item 6: Workshops

Key points discussed:

- a) We need a workshop to re-learn the core repertoire in the spring term.
- b) It was agreed members should not be expected to pay to attend it.
- c) Potential dates suggested for the workshop: Saturday 8th Feb or 7th or 14th March. **Jane** to check Vicente's availability.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

AoB/a) **Music:** Lucy asked about policy regarding people who want to attend the summer term rehearsals but not the current spring term. Amanda has identified 2 members who have indicated they want to return in the summer and they are both longer standing members. It was agreed that in the case of these 2 members specifically, they should be able to catch up from the missed rehearsals so a concession will be made for them, but as a general rule it wouldn't work. Lucy believes more copies will likely be needed but this will be clearer once week 2 of the taster sessions has taken place and final numbers can be established. Lucy is concerned about over ordering music.

Amanda to let Lucy, Viv and Karin know who has paid so they can update their lists.
2 more pieces are coming from Vicente.

AoB/b) Informal family and friends end of term performance:

It was agreed that we would give an informal performance at the final rehearsal of the spring term - Thursday 26th March - for family and friends who would be invited to arrive at the start of our rehearsal time that evening. The plan is to focus on the first half of the repertoire this term and then perform this to our visitors at that rehearsal. The aim is to encourage members' regular attendance at rehearsals throughout the spring term, to give new members the experience of singing in front of a small audience and for the choir to learn half of the whole repertoire in greater depth. We can then focus on the second half of the repertoire during the summer term bringing the whole repertoire together in the final weeks leading up to the summer concert.

Jane will advise Vicente and ask him to choose half the pieces from our repertoire and to focus on them so that we can sing them with reasonable confidence at this enhanced rehearsal.

AoB/c) **Julie** will put out a suggestion sheet in the coming weeks asking members to suggest charities for the 2 concerts and the tube carol singing, for the choir to vote on.

Francis announced he was leaving the choir.

Next Meeting

Date: 18th March 2026

Time: 7.30pm

Location: 74 Powys Lane N.13