# Royston Town Band Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a meeting held on 7th December 2015 at the Old Bull Inn, Royston.

Version 1, 6th January 2016

Present: CF (Chair), FB, TC, MJ, LL, MP, JS, SS, GW  
Apologies: BE, SE, LK, GS, OS, RS

## 2015/106 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 4th November 2015 were agreed as a true record.

## 2015/107 Engagements and contests

### December 2015

The choir which would be performing with the band on Saturday 12th December would be joining the rehearsal on Thursday 10th December.

Resourcing of upcoming commitments was discussed, including Studlands Rise School, Heydon Church and Richard Cox House.

### January 2016

#### Butlins Mineworkers Contest

Roger needed to know the number of Day Passes to obtain for those band members who would not be staying at Butlins for the weekend. Discussion suggested that 8 or 9 would be needed.

Judy had confirmed availability to play percussion at the contest, along with Sheila and Catherine.

### March 2016

#### Area Contest

Roger reported that the Area Contest would take place on Sunday 20th March for 4th section bands. The closing date for entries was 23rd January and the entry fee £115.

## 2015/108 Social, PR and promotion

### Quiz night

The quiz night held on Saturday 21st November at the Market Hill Rooms had been a great success and Charmian thanked those involved in organising it.

### Dinner and Dance

Sue had booked the Royston Golf Club for a James Bond themed dinner and dance on Saturday 6th February. Paul Skerry’s brother had agreed to be DJ. The likely price would be around £25 per head for adults (as last year), but would depend on menu choices. Sue had emailed the chef and was awaiting a response.

### Apparel

Charmian had been notified that her order was awaiting collection. Payment had yet to be made.

### Web site

Owen had revamped the band web site using more modern technology which should make it easier to maintain and also result in a more modern “look and feel.” Charmian thanked him for his sterling work.

The server which has hosted the web site (operated by Adam, Charmian’s husband) would be decommissioned in due course. Owen had identified a hosting company to which the web site could be migrated at a cost of around £85 per annum. The committee was in favour of this.

## 2015/109 Band room

Additional band room keys had been procured and were distributed to those at the meeting who lacked them.

Sue had purchased a timer which would allow the electric heater in the band room to be switched on for a preset time period.

## 2015/110 Copyright/Ownership of Music

Charmian had done some research and spoken to some people with relevant knowledge, including Owen and Chris Surridge. The consensus was that the band is not allowed to make copies of sets of music or even entire parts.

We would need to address any cases where whole sets of music in our library are copies and where we don’t own the original piece. It was not thought practicable to go through the entire library in one go. The following mechanism was proposed and seemed workable:

* When the librarian takes a piece from the library for playing, he informs the committee if we do not appear to own an original copy. He also attempts to find the approximate cost of purchasing a copy.
* The committee then makes a decision on whether to:
  1. purchase a copy immediately,
  2. add the piece to a ‘pending’ list of music to be purchased when finances allow, or
  3. discard the piece.

The decision is made by a majority vote and based on factors such as frequency of playing, popularity of the piece and cost to purchase. In the event of a tie, the music is purchased.

Some music may prove difficult to purchase, in which case it would be discarded at the end of the season.

With the above policy agreed, the first two examples were produced of pieces for which the band does not appear to own an original copy. These were:

* Away in a Manger, where the vote was to discard, based on a 8-to-1 majority, and
* Three Carols for Brass, where the vote was to purchase, based on a 7-to-2 majority.

Chris Surridge would be asked to check if Three Carols for Brass was still available for purchase and at what price.

**Action: SS**

[Following the meeting, a copy of Away in a Manger was donated to the band, so this piece would be retained in the library.]

## 2015/111 Performing Rights Society

Sue had spoken to the Performing Rights Society about licensing and had established the following:

* The band is only required to have a performing rights licence for performances where the venue does not have its own licence. Churches are exempt from this requirement.
* The cost of licence for a brass band is determined through a points system.
* RTB is currently in the lowest price band

Factors which influence the number of points and hence the applicable price band are:

1. How many performances are made in non-PRS-licensed venues per annum. RTB currently declares 4 to the PRS and the maximum number of such performances allowed by the lowest price band is 11.
2. Which section the brass band contests in, with non-championship sections scoring a lower number of points.
3. How many players are in the band. RTB currently declares 27 and the maximum number of players allowed by the lowest price band is 35. It is unclear whether the “number of players in the band” refers to the number performing at an event, or the number of band members. Charmian would clarify this with PRS.

**Action: CF**

If RTB were to exceed the limits for factors (1) and/or (3) [or become a championship section band], we would no longer be eligible for the lowest price band. The cost of a licence would then increase from (approximately) £55 to £101 per annum.

Assuming an unfavourable interpretation in (3), it is possible that the creation of the Development band may result in RTB entering a higher price band, since the number of players will have exceeded 35. (The Development band is not a separate band according to the constitution.)

Discussion would continue at the next meeting.

## 2015/112 Treasurer’s Statement

Sue reported a very successful start to December, with £258 having being raised by carolling in Royston town centre and £175 from the Reed Christmas party.

A summary of accounts for the period 3rd November 2015 to 8th December 2015 is distributed with these minutes.

The band had a total of £5111.31 in cash and at bank on 8th December 2015.

## 2015/113 Date of next meeting

Monday 11th January at the Old Bull Inn, 8.30pm start.

## 2015/114 Consolidated actions

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| Date | Owner | Action |
| 07/12/2015 | CF | Clarify meaning of “number of players in band” for PRS licence pricing. |
| 07/12/2015 | SS | Ask Chris to check if Three Carols for Brass was still available for purchase and at what price. |
| 02/11/2015 | CF | Remind Rob the builder about the need to widen the band room path. |
| 05/10/2015 | All | Consider principle of allowing third-parties use of the band room. |
| 13/07/2015 | CB/GW | Cooperate on organisation of musical activities for small groups. |
| 08/06/2015 | LL | Circulate details of possible associate band in France. |
| 11/05/2015 | All | Consider whether interested in taking up the Secretary role on Roger’s retirement and functioning as “apprentice” in the meantime. |
| 02/03/2015 | All | Plan jumble / table top sale. |
| 05/01/2015 | All | Pursue internal individual/small group contest. |
| 05/01/2015 | CF | Progress masterclass/workshop idea, when time permits |
| 01/12/2014 | MJ | Establish which cornet players do not have a full complement of mutes. |