



Morpeth Music Society

Affiliated to *Making Music*

Minutes of the 81th Annual General Meeting of Morpeth Music Society Morpeth Methodist Church Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7.30 pm

1. Welcome:

Chair of Morpeth Music society, Wendy Locks, extended a warm welcome to all those present.

Attendees:

Wendy Locks, Kath Smith, Steve Locks, Colin Matthews, Allan Colver, Louise Freeman, Ross Freeman, Martin Wright, Neil Robinson, Diane Vannan, Alison Oxby and Richard Bishop

Apologies: George Parnaby

2. Presentation and Performance:

Wendy Locks, Chair of Morpeth Music Society, introduced Will Straughan who is the recipient of the annual scholarship of £300 as the outstanding young musician from KEVI this year.

Will is a grade 8 cornet player and trumpeter and has been involved in music since he was born! He is currently in Year 12 at KEVI School and is studying both Music and Music technology as part of his A-Levels. Will plays first trumpet in the school's Jazz Band, Concert Band, sings in Choir and Chamber Choir and was one of the lead characters in KEVI's recent production of Grease. In addition, over the last few years, Will has also begun conducting and now regularly leads instrumental ensembles and chooses pieces that bands will perform. This love of extra-curricular extends out of school where Will regularly performs in a number of brass bands and is a regular entrant to local music festivals such as Ryton Music Festival where he has won various categories over the last several years. He is also a choral scholar for Mid Northumberland Chorus.

After completing his A-Levels, Will is hoping to study Film Music and will continue to play in music societies and bands. His dream is to become a film composer and conduct the score.

At the meeting this evening Will sang "Under the Greenwood Tree" set by Thomas Arne for the 1740 revival of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' and sang "Stars" from Les Misérables.

In addition, he played The Trumpet Voluntary by William Boyce as well as Aria by Alexander Arutiunian.

Will gave informative introductions to his pieces and was accompanied on the piano by his mother Emma Straughan.



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There was then a photo call when Wendy handed him the cheque and wished him well in all his future musical endeavours.

3. Minutes of the 80th AGM held 9th July 2024

The minutes were reviewed and approved as a correct record of previous meeting.

Proposed: Louise Freeman

Seconded: Colin Mathews

4. Matters Arising:

Kath asked if Rachel Cabey is still willing to liaise between the Society and the local schools.

Rachel has no special role anymore but is one of the school team members copied into the emails arranging the workshop.

5. Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 30th April 2025 (Attached)

A copy of the report was circulated and to everyone present. The report is to be submitted to the Charity Commission. After reading it through there was a vote of acceptance.

Proposed: Steve Locks

Seconded: Kath Smith

6. Treasurers Report for Year to 30th April 2025 (Attached)

Steve Locks explained that the financial report for the Society is always runs to the end of April so that our last concert can be included in that financial year.

The attached report was discussed in some detail. Steve feels that we are currently in a good financial position. We have enough funds to pay for next Season and can confidently book ahead for the 82nd Season.

Steve explained that membership subscriptions largely covered artists fees while the grants that the Society receives covers the other expense incurred putting on the concerts, i.e. publicity, rent of the venue, Making Music fees (membership, insurance and Performing Rights), scholarship, refreshments and admin.

Hence the Season ended in a good financial position with a balance of £25,861.34 on 30th June 2026.

Proposed: Wendy Locks

Seconded: Louise Freeman



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7. Committee Members for re-election

Wendy Locks confirmed that the position of a committee member is for one year only and therefore to be re-elected annually.

Allan Colver and Colin Mathews. Both have indicated their willingness to re-elected.

Proposed: Alison Oxby
Seconded: Ross Freeman

General agreement was indicated among those present by a show of hands.

Martin Wright and Alison Oxby have both indicated their willingness to be elected to the Committee this evening.

Proposed: Allan Colver
Seconded: Ross Freeman

Kath Smith has resigned from the committee as Honourable Secretary.
Wendy thanked her for input to the committee.

8. Election of Officers

- Honorary Secretary Vacant
- Honorary Treasurer Vacant

Steve Locks has indicated his willingness to continue as Treasurer as an interim measure until a permanent Treasurer can be found.

Proposed: Allan Colver
Seconded: Louise Freeman

General agreement was indicated among those present by a show of hands

9. AOB

The insurance status of the Society's piano and risks to the society for possible loss of venue was raised. The current "Bronze" insurance covers the public, products, Employers, Directors and Officers liability and money and assault. The committee will look into a risk register for whether to increase this insurance to cover cancellation and Abandonment, property damage and any other risks. The piano is moved on and off the stage by Tyneside Piano Company, who are be insured for this work.



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The issue of the future plans for the Methodist Church in relation to the development of the building as an Arts Centre was raised, including whether stakeholders are being consulted and whether the plans for the arts centre are being widely advertised by the Greater Morpeth Development Trust.

Steve said that he has been communicating with Greater Morpeth Development Trust and has given them an outline of stakeholder requirements and volunteered to help with their consultations, but has had little feedback other than being told not much will happen until the GMDT can secure funding.

The meeting was then brought to a close.

10. Attachments

Attachment 1.

Trustees' Annual Report for the period From 01.05.25 Period start date To 30.04.26



MMS TAR year to
30.04.26.pdf

Attachment 2.

Treasurer's Report



2026 MMS AGM -
Treasurer Report.pdf