Endcliffe Orchestra Committee

23rd July, 2026

Draft Minutes

Present: Chris, Alison, Clare, Karen, Lindsay, Lisa, Ralph, River

1. **Apologies:** Alex, Neil, John.
2. The meeting of 18th June was cancelled: no draft Minutes to be discussed
3. **Declaration of items for AOB.** There were three items mentioned: a) Safeguarding Lead for the orchestra, b) New timpanist Jacob, age 16, would like to join c) Accessibility issues.
4. **Agenda items**
    a. Marketing -
    We reviewed the proposal from ShowCaseCreativeStudion.com covering: a new website with all required pages, social media integration, on-line access to the Newsletter (Endcliffe Notes), a new logo, training (including videos) on editing and updating the site.
    The sub-group that examined the proposal had also viewed other providers, and judged this proposal to offer excellent quality and value for money. **It was agreed that Matt would inform the orchestra on WhatsApp of the proposal and send details of the website of ShowCaseCreative, so that members could have a look at their work.** This would be prior to the orchestra entering into a commitment to produce the website. There was some urgency in this, as we hope that a new website would be in place for next year.
    We also noted the need for someone to maintain the site, though several members of the committee would be able to upload material themselves. **It was agreed to approach Katrin to take on this role.**

    b. To fix a date for River's Annual Review. This was arranged for 7th August at The Robin Hood.

    c. Post- concert debrief. We considered that the whole concert was very good indeed and particularly noted that it was well received by audience members. There followed a discussion as to the challenging nature of

the music - not necessarily the individual items but the programme taken as a whole. It was noted that the Borodin and Elgar had passages of considerable difficulty and overall the programme demanded stamina. **We agreed that programming needs to be considered** in future to achieve a good balance of enjoyment, challenge and playability.
There had been a problem with the venue in relation to a spillage in the refreshment area. This had been dealt with satisfactorily and both we and those in charge of All Saints are happy with our use of the venue.

d. Vacancies in the orchestra. Various vacancies had arisen and been filled satisfactorily. The one outstanding vacancy is for a trombonist and **we agreed to approach Alex as to his ideas as to how this vacancy could be filled.** We noted that there was a vacancy for a desk in the second violins.
River raised the question of the **Rehearsal Schedule 2026-7** and this and the **repertoire for the four concerts** in the next season, which had been considered previously, **were formally agreed.**
A query was raised about the loss of a Sunday rehearsal prior to the concert: some members were in favour of this, others expressed the view that the main advantage of the Sunday rehearsal was that it gave a chance for a complete play through of the music. **River agreed that he would ensure that there was a complete play through of the music** in ordinary rehearsal time so that members could gauge the length and stamina required for a full performance.
A further suggestion was made that for the Christmas concert entitled 'A Sheffield Christmas', we should include a **pastiche of local carols and this was agreed. Lindsay to provide details.**

e. Pay review for Conductor /Leader. Matt informed us that there had been discussions and the **pay rates were agreed.** There was some clarification needed for the rehearsal/concert day, but this was in hand.

f. AGM and sundry arrangements: the date of 28th September was fixed for the AGM. As Lindsay told us that she was leaving the orchestra

owing to pressure of work, we expressed our grateful thanks to her for all her work over many years for the orchestra.

Karen was happy to continue (solo) as orchestra concert manager but would need some help in January. All other members of the committee were willing to stand.

There followed a discussion of the workload of committee members who were carrying the weight of running the business of the orchestra. There was a suggestion that there should be a list of jobs that are required for the smooth functioning of the orchestra (some apparently small and some larger jobs) and we should prepare a list of these and ask section leaders to hand the list to members so that each member could take on something to help with the running of the orchestra. **It was agreed that there was an expectation that most, if not all, members** would contribute to the running of the orchestra and sign up for one of the jobs. **We would prepare the list and this would be available at the AGM.**

g. Arrangements for a plaque etc. for Lewis. This was in hand.

h. Making Music awards. We examined the various categories which were available for these awards and **we agreed in principle** that we could put forward River for an award in the Conductors category (especially if this was supported by SYO and CSO in addition to ourselves). We might also put forward the orchestra in the 'diverse programming' category in view of the many and various items we have included in our programming in the past few years. **Chris to carry this forward.**

i. Sheffield bid to be City of Culture 2029. Clare raised this as a possible way in which the orchestra could contribute to the bid. One of the core themes to be pursued by the Council is the 'community focus' of the cultural events in the City. The Endcliffe Orchestra with its collaborations with other orchestras and groups, its composing competition and its forthcoming conductors' workshop could well provide an example of such a community focus. **It was agreed that**

Clare would make contact with the Council lead on the bid to discuss our input.

5. AOB
    a. Safeguarding: Chris raised the issue of the need to have a trained safeguarding lead for the orchestra. The person filling this role would be responsible for being the first port of call for any safeguarding issues, for updating, as and when necessary, our Safeguarding Policies and perhaps being a member of the committee, though this was not seen as essential. **Action would be taken by Chris** to see if anyone would be willing to fulfil this role.
    b. Lisa raised the question of whether there were issues of accessibility that we needed to address. Specifically, this includes but is not limited to, any difficulties relating to hearing in the orchestra. If an member is hard of hearing they may not be able to follow the conductor's recommendations or hear announcements. We do take care to ensure that barriers are placed to deflect sound, but these need to be correctly placed and ear plugs need to be available at rehearsals. In addition to the question of hearing, there may be other accessibility issues that affect members and we need to be sensitive to these. **It was agreed that Lisa should design a short form** available on WhatsApp in which people could anonymously raise any issues that affect the accessibility of the orchestra.

6. Date and place of next meeting: 17th September, at Chris's, S17 3EG