

## AGENDA – Committee meeting Friday 22 March 2024

### Apologies

### Topics

- NMM singing group – raised by Lou – Cath to give background – I think that this one is probably resolved, but we should minute it.
- Band practice – raised in WhatsApp discussion – do we need it? Probably resolved but needs minuting.
- Steve – ‘NMM proposition’ – Cath to give background.
- Proposed change to Constitution (for voting at the next AGM) – raised by Cath
  - change our Constitution from "The style of NMM is primarily based on, but is not limited to, traditional English Morris." to "The style of NMM is based on traditional English Morris."
- Budget
  - advertising - raised by Kelly
  - Beer for the Day of Dance – raised by Helen
  - Costumes – raised by Kelly
  - Food – raised by Kelly
- Sewing supplies, incidentals – raised by Cath
- Ex-members in Whatsapp groups – raised by Helen
- Day of Dance – do we need to discuss – raised by Helen
- AOB

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Present HW, RC, KW, CF, AF

- Singing Group. - probably not an organised group, and it needs someone to 'structure/lead'. Would be good to have time to practice Halsway Carol, Wassailing songs etc.  
CF - to discuss possibilities with KC. CF
- Band practices - for the time being we will stop practices - Take it up again as required.  
AF to cancel all band practices. A.F
- CF to come up with a way of reminding band to take pos<sup>n</sup>s in an arc + dancers to note their locations - when we are dancing out. CF  
RC
- Someone to organise the band when we are performing in public. Band pos<sup>n</sup>s + tunes for performance - CF to speak to LY CF
- Suggested NMM 'statement of values' from ST. CF has spoken to ST. Committee feels we can work on this - that we still need to establish ourselves and what our core values are. CF to speak to ST about developing this later in year. Also KW to speak CF  
KW
- short term to use "inspiring, innovative, exciting" internally to evaluate our own performance.
- On website, social media etc. use "a joyful tribe". CF  
KW  
IC
- Budget for advertising. Posters for important events (eg DoD) to be professionally printed (cont.)

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- for pubs - home printing. KW  
CF
- suggestion for booking loc<sup>n</sup> to have a whole day dancing/practice - pay for hall + food from bank acct.
  - to be discussed with the side at practice ALL
- Budget for DoD. 18-pints polypin x 3 prices at <sup>from</sup> £41.20 each HW to get permission from the side HW
- Plan for sewing workshops to share the work of sewing - later in year No plans to change kit - too much work to change all our kit. CF
- Sewing incidentals - threads, bondaweb, embroidery threads - charged to the side CF
- Past members will be removed from whatsApp groups & asked to join the NMM Members FB Group - ask other former members if they want to join. CF
- DoD - CF & MW to meet with MH to discuss Apple Parade & DoD CF  
HW  
MH
- DoD - suggestions - Wicket Broad, Hemlock, Aldbury, Whitchurch, Towersey, Red Cuthbert, Pump House, Stony Steppers, NMM
  - Need action plan for how to integrate new <sup>members</sup> CF  
RC

## Notes on minutes of Committee meeting – 22 March 2024

**Chair: Kw. Minutes: CF**

**Singing group** – Thanks to MAM for organising a survey into this. We are probably not going to have an organised group that meets regularly. Would Kate be interested in organising practices for Halsway Carol, wassailing songs, etc. closer to the events? **CF to speak to KC. MAM to give input?**

**Band practices** – shelved for the time being. **AF to cancel bookings**

We need a way of making sure that the band is positioned best so that musicians can hear the lead. Should be in an arc so that musicians can see lead musician and each other.

Would it be helpful to have one person who is responsible for making sure that band is in position when performing in public? Also to follow the agreed list of “performance tunes”? **CF to speak to LY about possibly taking this role.**

Dancers need to be reminded to be aware of their positions in set when we are dancing out – at least short term. **RC and CF to remind dancers.**

**NMM Statement of Values** – idea from Steve. CF has spoken to ST to suggest that since we’ve had a period of disruption things need to settle down a bit. However, the committee feels that it is legitimate for NMM to aim to become an ‘exceptional’ side, with very good, exciting, and innovative performances. We want to be a side that others are watching, and to be part of the conversation about what Morris is and should be. To do that we need a ‘target’ – we need something to aim for. **CF and KW to speak with ST about developing this for discussion by the side later in the year.**

Short term we will begin to evaluate our performance at practice with “Inspiring, Innovative, Exciting” to start this progress. **ALL**

On the website, social media, etc. we will change A New Tradition to “A Joyful Tribe” (in quotation marks). This may be a short-term change – dependent upon the work on development of our ‘NMM proposition’ **CF, KW, IC**

**Budgets** – raised by Kelly

**Advertising** – agreed that posters for important events (DoD, Maypole Dance) should be printed professionally (eg Vistaprint or locally, whichever is cheaper) those for one off events in pubs to be home printed and laminated – all money to be reclaimed from Treasurer. **KW**

There has been a suggestion of ‘**Practice Days**’ – this was not on agenda, but it was raised as a natural point when we were discussing budget. Book a hall for the day (Saturdays?), arrange for food. All day for practice, building performance, etc – maybe up to 4 times a year. Paid for from the NMM budget. **ALL**

**Budget for DoD in October** – HW would like to put a polypin (18 pints) of beer at each of the three dance locations in Tring for the sides. Cost likely to be around £42 per polypin. **Approved by committee. HW to get permission from ALL.**

**NMM kit.** There are no plans to change our kits. This would require considerable work. CF has a lot of work with making new kits atm, new members are asked to be

patient. Bee has volunteered to do the ironing of waistcoat fronts, which will be very helpful. **BH**

CF plans to hold sewing workshops later this year to develop sewing skills in the side – probably in the summer. HW proposed sewing stick bags. **CF to organise.**

**Sewing incidentals** – it's easy to calculate fabric used for NMM kit, but quantities of thread - especially embroidery thread – and bondaweb is impossible to calculate. CF has asked the side to pay for all thread and bondaweb used to make kit. **Agreed.**

**Past members on WhatsApp groups** – this seemed a good idea last year, but the side has grown considerably since then. Past members will be removed from NMM WhatsApp groups and invited to join the FB NMM Members group. Other former members will be asked if they wish to join the FB NMM Members group. This can then become somewhere where NMM members and Friends can share information. Sue will remain on the WhatsApp group, since she is effectively a 'country member' who attends when able. **CF to contact Richard, who is the only non-member still on the WhatsApp groups – once this is done CF will ask Gloria to remove Richard. CF also to contact former members who may wish to be involved in the FB group. Does anyone have suggestions for former members to invite?**

**Day of Dance – October** CF, HW and MH to meet to discuss DoD and Apple Parade (which is organised by MH).

**DoD – suggestions for invitations** – to go out as 'hold the date' asap. Wicket Brood, Hemlock, Aldbury, Whitchurch, Towersey, Red Cuthbert, Pump House, Stony Steppers, plus NMM. The plan is to get at least 6 sides, and possibly as many as 9. **HW to send out invitations.**

**How to teach new dancers?** As we are growing so quickly we need a plan of how to teach new members the dances, while keeping more experienced dancers practiced in all of the dances, so that we retain (and develop) our range of dances. **RC and CF to meet to discuss plans – April 6<sup>th</sup>.**