

Ilminster Ukulele Club Working Group

Minutes of Meeting 27th June 2023

Present: Polly, Marck, Ian, John, David W, Tony, Elaine

Chair: Ian

- 1 David W is a very welcome addition to the working group. Club members are reminded that anyone can ask to join this group if they are keen to help with managing the club.
- 2 Minutes of last meeting agreed.
- 3 **Concerts:** group confirmed we should aim for no more than one gig a month
 - a. **Wedding** 1st July. Thorncombe. Suzanna is collecting microphones for event.
 - b. **Parkinson's** gig 18th July. Bell Inn Ash. Ian is IUC contact. Elaine to set up poll as numbers needed asap for catering purposes.
 - c. **Vaugh Lee care home:** Ilminster. David W is IUC contact – to offer a date at beginning of September.
 - d. **The Maltings.** Chard 9th August. Daryl is IUC contact for this event.
 - e. **Horton Cross care home.** Ilminster. Sheila is IUC contact. Sheila to be asked to arrange a date in October
 - f. **Forget me not Café:** Curry Rival 26th September. Sheila is IUC contact
 - g. **Warehouse Theatre** Ilminster 18th November. Ian is IUC contact. Discussed as next item.
 - h. **Christmas lights** Ilminster 24th November. Ian to contact Colin Hyde to check out what PA system will be available.
- 4 **Warehouse gig.**
 - a. This event will need a considerable song refresh. Discussion re whether a majority of members would be willing to put in the work needed to be concert ready with new songs. Elaine to poll members to ask: 1) to you want to do this gig? 2) Are you prepared to put the time into developing and learning new songs?
 - b. If we feel it's going to be viable, we will survey the group to see which songs from our current gig lists need to be 'rested' for a while.
 - c. Ian to check if Merchant Men could join us. Other ideas – Ilminster Belles or Ilminster Community Choir. Ian to progress.
 - d. Assuming this goes ahead, set list can be the starting point for songs for future gigs, adding and amending as appropriate.
 - e. Discussed if we needed to run specific sessions for gig rehearsal as not everyone wants to spend time on developing and tweaking songs. Suggested running alternate Wednesdays focusing on general playing and song development. Leaders group to consider in their planning.
 - f. We will also need to a specific Warehouse planning group.
- 5 **Leading & Planning rehearsals.**
 - a. There is a leaders WhatsApp group. Ian agreed to join.
 - b. Members of this group to set up a rota to cover sessions.
 - c. Ideally, we should have a strategy for big events, so we cover all the songs etc that we need to practice – with continuity from week to week. If we can communicate in advance what will be covered each week it will help members to have their music organised. Ian shared how this was managed at his previous club. To be considered next meeting.
 - d. Discussed impact on rehearsal time when people are not prepared or have old versions of songs. It also leads to others losing focus. Group concluded that the New Song Process covered most of the

issues raised. It is important for members to be able to bring new songs and have their input into arrangements. So – we just need to implement the process!! Leaders to respond to suggestions for new songs using the process.

- e. Discussed behaviour of group members and how this can impact on leaders who will have put time into planning sessions. Also how to find the balance between having fun and making progress with songs etc
- f. Songs will be updated on the website after any amendments and members alerted to the latest version. (Marck)

- 6 **Website** Update from Polly and Zoe, Polly is minding the site until Zoe can take it back. Discussed issue re setting up private members section. Agreed best way forward would be to look for a new host and rebuild the site from scratch. Registration fees for current site and domain name currently paid by David W. This is a group cost so going forward we need to have some accessible group funds to cover. Marck suggested a possible host and will send link to Zoe to investigate and feed back.
- 7 **Performance equipment** Currently use equipment mainly owned or purchased by David B, Marck and David W. Discussed what we need for gigs. We have suitable gear but it's not easy to set up. It takes time to set up and get right for gigs – so far a task mainly done by David B. Trailing wires on stage is also a H&S issue. Tony kindly offered to donate a system but as it's old, agreed it wouldn't solve the H&S concerns. Marck asked to research what a suitable new system for us would cost. Ian has experience of finding funding etc. Or we could fund rise for ourselves, ask for donations etc. We also need funds to cover costs of replacement batteries for the wireless mikes etc (mainly covered to date by David B) It would be helpful to have all club equipment owned by the club (not individuals) and kept in one place. Elaine confirmed that storage can continue at Braeside until this matter is sorted. We also have the club gig boards that David B made. Discuss next meeting.
- 8 **Intros and Outros** Need to find new people who can do intros and outros to reduce our reliance on one or two people. So far Cheryl, Mel and Daryl have expressed willingness to learn these. Marck to progress.

Next meeting: 25th July 2023 7pm, Braeside.