Grantham Choral Society Annual General Meeting 2025-2026
5th September 2026, 12:45pm at Grantham Prep School

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from 2024-25 AGM held on 16th September 2025, and any matters arising
3. Presentation of the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for 2025-26, and accounts for the year, questions on these and on other officers' reports
4. Adoption of proposed Reserves Policy
5. GCS financial position
6. Proposal to re-appoint the Independent Examiner (Dennis Hannant)
7. Election of Officers and Committee:
    a. To re-appoint the current committee en bloc
    Proposed by: Seconded by:
    b. To appoint additional committee member – tbc
    Proposed by: Seconded by:
8. Any other business

Minutes - *draft*

1. Apologies were received from the following members:
   Catherine Bateson, Sheena Brown, Anne Dove, Steve Gelsthorpe, Ian Graham, Andrew Lane, Ivan Linford, Anny Jones, Philip Robinson, Cora Townson, Graham Watkin, Cara White.

2. Minutes from 2024-25 AGM held on 16th September 2025, and any matters arising.
   There were no matters arising.
   Accepting the minutes – proposed by Jackie Brooks, seconded by Elizabeth Bowskill.
   Teri Deal, as incoming chair in 2025, signed the minutes.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for 2025-26, and accounts for the year, questions on these and on other officers' reports.
   Stuart Hadley clarified that the cost/income categories we use are those set out by the Charity Commission, and that subscriptions are included in the category 'Charitable activities'.
   Acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by Ian Bracey, seconded by Gill Charles, and Teri Deal signed them.

4. Adoption of proposed Reserves Policy
   Stuart Hadley (Treasurer) explained that this policy has been introduced as a result of Charity Commission requirements but does not change the way we operate. GCS has always been prudent in managing our reserves – there is always a risk of us owing money to an orchestra, for example, if we had to cancel a concert performance at short notice. The policy formalises the need for us to keep a certain level of reserves to cover this type of eventuality. It is now formally part of our accounts.
   The policy was signed off by the Committee on 16th June 2026.
   Approval of the policy was proposed by Tonya Pacey and seconded by Gill Charles, with no objections.

5. GCS financial position

Teri Deal outlined our financial position – we made a loss of just under £1,000 in this financial year. Like other choirs, we are finding it difficult to sell enough tickets to cover the costs of our concerts, and although it felt as if we almost filled St Wulfram's in May 2026, and used an inexpensive orchestra and student soloists, we still made a loss. We need to increase both our member numbers (and hence subscriptions) and our audience numbers, as well as sponsorship and other revenue streams. We expect to make a further loss this year because of the expense of performing St Matthew Passion; our reserves will protect us but we can't afford to do that every year.

Members made the following contributions and suggestions:

- Rob Fieldson mentioned that the March 2027 concert in Newark may limit our local ticket sales, so we will need to work extra hard
- Vanessa Norris asked if we know how many tickets we sold for May 2026, and what the total capacity of St Wulfram's is (St W tell us it is 600 for a concert), so that we know the size of the opportunity and by how much we missed it (could we ever break even with full capacity?). Also, are we considering raising ticket prices. Committee response – good point on capacity, and yes we do make a careful decision on ticket price for each concert, largely based on a balance of affordability for the audience and our costs.
- David Humphreys stressed that if we can increase the number of singers, each of them brings an additional paying audience, as well as their member subscriptions, and musical scale. So this must be a priority for all of us – we are all members of the community we want to represent.
- Elizabeth Bowskill suggested we look at cultural/community funding from South Kesteven District Council. Jill Henshall mentioned Rotary have community funds, as do Pilgrim Foods. Teri asked that all members bring suggestions of other organisations we can approach, and any contacts with fund-raising expertise.
- John Foulkes-Jones suggested we continue engaging with Hive FM for profile.
- Vanessa Norris asked if we track subscriber numbers, and joiners and leavers and the reasons why leavers are leaving. We do do this, but we will be more systematic in this. Singing numbers last year were around 55 over the year, but we need to make sure we track and share information on subscribing member numbers as well.
- Jackie Brooks said that the produce and book stalls are a good source of income, but that same people tend to both bring and buy the goods. She asked if more members could contribute and/or buy products.
- Ian Kemp asked if we are doing all we can to claim Gift Aid. Stuart Hadley explained that we do ask all tax-paying members if they will gift aid their donation, and he makes a return every January, which resulted this year in income of over £900. We need to make sure we ask all new members if they are able to Gift Aid their subscription, and also ask existing members to tell us if their tax status changes.
- Pauline Hall said that GCS subscription is the lowest she is aware of locally, and are we considering increasing it. Teri responded that we had already committed to keeping subs at £120 this year, but this will increase next year. Members can make a donation on top of their subscription if they are able to, and GCS would be very grateful if they do.
- Maurice Payne asked if we have members or committee members with contacts in the businesses around the area, as historically those contacts have been useful in generating sponsorship income. Currently we are losing sponsors and all members

are asked to think about who we could approach to re-build numbers.

Teri thanked everyone for their helpful comments, and urged members to keep ideas coming.

6. Proposal to re-appoint the Independent Examiner (Dennis Hannant)
   Proposed by Fiona Zealley, seconded by Gill Charles, with no objections.

7. Election of Officers and Committee:
   a. To re-appoint the current committee en bloc
      Proposed by: Elzabeth Bowskill, Seconded by: Ian Bracey. No objections
   b. To appoint additional committee member – tbc
      Proposed by: NA Seconded by: NA

      No candidates came forward. Teri asked that anyone interested can approach her at any time.
      Stefani Abadian-Crone told members that being on the committee is about getting extra brains on the decisions we have to make, and doesn't necessarily involve much time or a specific role or expertise. And if any member has a particular idea or skill that they think would be useful, it's not necessary to be on the committee to make the idea happen – we can co-opt people or simply ask you to work alongside committee members. We want GCS to be an open organisation where everyone feels they can contribute in whatever way works best for them.

8. Any other business
   Ian Kemp thanked the committee for their leadership and hard work.
   Teri thanked Steve Gelsthorpe in particular for his leadership of the website re-design.
   Members agreed that the new website is fresh and inviting.
   Judy Hadley asked that we also thank our front of house teams who help us at all our concerts.

The meeting finished at 1:15pm

GCS Officers and Committee, 2026-27

Chair	Teri Deal
Vice-Chair	Jackie Brooks
Secretary	Fiona Zealley
Treasurer	Stuart Hadley
Social Secretary	Tonya Pacey
Concert Secretary	Fiona Zealley
Member	Stefani Abadian-Crone (social media)
Member	Gill Charles (Librarian)
Member	tbc
Member (Publicity lead)	Rob Fieldson
Member (Sponsors/advertisers lead)	Vacant

Member (Marketing/website lead)	Steve Gelsthorpe
Director of Music ex officio	David Humphreys
Accompanist ex officio	Ivan Linford
Webmaster	Andrew Lane (not on committee)