

Stroud Symphony Orchestra

41st AGM held on 3rd July 2026

Minutes

Note: The trustees met before the AGM. Angie Spencer has been appointed trustee in place of John Woodward (the SSO governing document gives trustees power of appointment).

1. **Apologies** had been received from: John Cooper, Di Wilton, Pip Pembroke, Rachel Power, Deb and Ralph Pidsley, Peter Hankins, Penny Church, Jane Whaley, Natasha Bowen-Jones.
2. **Minutes** of the previous meeting were read and approved. There were no matters arising.
3. **Chairman's report** had been circulated to orchestra members. Chairman thanked Jim and Pat for hosting. He expressed some concern over the possible cost of overhaul our piano needs, and the slow response from the people who can give us an estimate. There had been very good audience response to our concerts, and he was proud of our achievements, having enjoyed being part of the audience, for a change, at this summer's concert.
4. **Conductor's report** had been circulated to orchestra members.
5. **Treasurer's report and statement of accounts** had been circulated to orchestra members. Removing ourselves from the Subscription Rooms Box Office has not damaged ticket sales. Orchestra members' selling tickets and paying via BACS has been very successful. Treasurer noted that orchestra subs do not cover our basic running costs. Suggestions for fundraising were made. The idea of a 'Friends of the Orchestra' or some kind of sponsorship needs further discussion (**action: Committee**). Clare Lucas and Mary Boitz agreed to look into possible grant funding for the piano repairs (**action: Clare and Mary**). Accounts go from June 1st to May 31st annually and do not coincide with our season, September to June. There was a discussion around changing this but no decision was made.
6. **Subscription rates 26-27:** The meeting agreed new subscriptions in line with inflation from £144 to £150. Anyone needing a concessionary rate should see Jim Hutton (Treasurer) as the orchestra seeks to be a fully inclusive organisation.
7. **Membership Secretary:** We are very grateful to Rachel for continuing to be our membership and social media representative. Her report has also been circulated.
8. **Election of Officers:** All officers have agreed to continue in their roles and the meeting agreed to their continuation.
9. **Next season** dates: our concerts will be on November 21st, March 20th and June 26th. Our first rehearsal next term is on September 9th.
10. **AOB:**
 - a. Joint concert with Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra in 2028. Strauss Alpine Symphony or Mahler 2 have been suggested. Potential sponsorship to be considered (**action: Committee**).
 - b. Further opportunities for Children's concerts to be considered (**action: Committee**).
 - c. It was agreed that minutes of meetings will be available on request for members (on the website) (**action: Chairman**).
 - d. It was agreed that in our concert dress the traditional "splash of red" should be re-continued.

End of Meeting