

**Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Merchant Sinfonia held  
in Studio 1 at City Halls on Tuesday 28 October 2014 at 19:00hrs  
immediately following the AGM**

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**Chair:** Tony Strachan

**Present:** some 60 members

(1) The Chair declared the meeting open. Apologies for absence were noted from Jane Fraser, Allison Grant, Bill Gray and Joanna Gardner

(2) Due Notice having been given, the EGM had been convened to consider and, if thought fit, approve following resolutions:

**1. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the insertion of the following text as a new Clause 3.1 to the Constitution of Merchant Sinfonia**

“3.1 The Committee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to decline an application or applications for membership where, in the opinion of the Committee, acceptance of such application or applications would be prejudicial to the interests of the orchestra as a whole.”

**2. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the renumbering of the previous numbered clauses 3.1 to 3.6 of the Constitution of Merchant Sinfonia as clauses 3.2 to 3.7 respectively;**

The Chair explained that at the beginning of the current Season the Committee became aware that one applicant had recently been convicted of a criminal offence and that the proximity of the conviction and the nature of the offence was, after much discussion, deemed likely to cause concern to other members. In this case the application was not pursued, but advice from Making Music had been that the Committee might want to include a clause in the Constitution to deal with what would, hopefully, be rare instances where such matters might arise. The Chair emphasised that he saw the use of such a clause as rare and that there was no intention on the part of the Committee to use it other than when real concern arose.

# MERCHANT SINFONIA

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GLASGOW'S COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Web: [www.merchantsinfonia.org.uk](http://www.merchantsinfonia.org.uk)

email: [merchantsinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:merchantsinfonia@gmail.com)

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In discussion, one member said that it was to be hoped that a criminal conviction of itself would not be a barrier to membership but that the proximity and nature of the offence would be taken into consideration. The Chair agreed and acknowledged that participation in the Orchestra could be seen as valuable rehabilitation in the right circumstances. Another member asked whether the clause might be used in other circumstances. The Chair said that it would be difficult to envisage all the possible problems but that, for example, someone whose behaviour was known to be disruptive might also be considered under the proposed powers for the Committee. It was noted that such a provision was not unusual in the Constitutions of membership bodies.

Following discussion, the Chair put the two motions as one, these were both proposed by the Committee and seconded by Morag Smith and were passed unanimously.

(3) There being no other business, the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Tony Strachan  
Chair, Merchant Sinfonia