

*MINUTES OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024*

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Present:

Chairman: Paul Carter

Committee: Richard Edwards, Steve Shoesmith, John Walter, Les Watson, Nicola Cox, Geb Locke, Keith Veness, Keith Baker, Rodney Shoesmith, Chris Cooper and Shaun Massey.

Co-opted: Terry Merchant, John Morris

**1. Admin Report**

Jenny presented the final draft accounts for end 2023. The end year result altered due to a small number of factors, the main one being an electricity bill, billed in January 2024 but relating to 2023 and the provision of an HFPS invoice not received in 2023. However, the good news is that we do remain in surplus for the first time in several years.

Jenny presented the 2024 budget, this is a changeable document as the situation changes throughout the year but gives us a decent starting point. The January report shows a great start to the year, already ahead of last year's accounts, although that is largely due to some refurb spend in January of last year. The bar profit is already up on last year, though, showing a promising start.

Insurances were renewed this month and, on reviewing the schedules, realised that our public liability insurance through the Angling Trust membership only covers members when taking part in an Angling Trust recognised activity. This means that we were not covered for any clubhouse/bar activities. Therefore, a £10m provision has been added to our main clubhouse insurance, which has significantly increased our premium on last year. The bulldozer and HSB Engineering policies have only seen a relatively small increase on last year.

Jenny confirmed that contracts have been renewed/agreed for our BT broadband, securing a 24 month deal at only £2 per month increase; water contract remaining with Everflow on a 36 month contract from 9<sup>th</sup> April; clubhouse electricity renewal secured from May and beach electric locked in to new prices from November.

Finally, Jenny reported that she has been looking into alternative systems for our membership renewals in order to try and streamline and simplify the process for 2024. She has entered a free trial with an online database, payment and membership profile software. Jenny proposed that she set up the committee members on the system, to see what the process is like from a user perspective. Feedback will then be gathered from the committee to see if this is something that will be useful for us going forward. In addition, Nicola asked whether the membership elements can be added to the till as a product item to make renewal

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payments easier for those not wishing to pay through the software. Jenny will look into this.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes were sent to the committee prior to the meeting and were agreed by a show of hands.

### **3. Grant Applications**

Jenny is applying for a grant to upgrade our stage area with new PA, carpet and electrics. She has also set up an account on the East Sussex County Council website, which regularly updates with grants available.

### **4. Committee Roles**

A final draft of the committee roles was circulated, and it was agreed that an abridged version will be added to the website.

### **5. Late Payment of Fees**

Paul reported that some members are still trying to pay in February and March and retain their fob access. The rules are that the renewal date is 1<sup>st</sup> January and we allow one month for fees to be paid. From 1<sup>st</sup> February, unpaid fobs are switched off and any renewals must pay a re-joining fee. It was proposed by Keith Veness that any fobs paid for in the first couple of weeks of February may be retained but will not be switched back on until end February. This was seconded by Rodney and agreed by a show of hands.

### **6. Apologies for Absence**

Steve Saunders, Carl Charman, Bruce Dowling and Bob Sage.

### **7. Membership Applications**

13 social applications were received which were all approved by the committee.

### **8. Commodore's Report**

Les confirmed that new lights have been purchased for the dozer. A skip arrived this morning and Shaun asked if people are aware that they need their own hoses, which was answered, yes, they do.

### **9. Competition Secretary's Report**

Richard confirmed that this year's booklet is now online. Prizes are to be bought from Martyn. A comp meeting will be held immediately following the AGM and a notice of invitation will be sent with the AGM notice.

### **10. Any Other Business**

a. Steve mentioned Fat Tuesday and security has been arranged.

b. Nicola confirmed that the fish recorder's report and cups and trophies are now done, and the beach fishing has done very well this year. Keith added that he is calling for any miniatures that are unwanted to be returned for re-use.

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- c. Geb mentioned that on Sunday people were leaving their coats on lounge chairs when going across for their roast dinner, to reserve their seats. He suggested that perhaps we could ask Melissa to ask them to take their belongings with them when calling them across to their table and this was agreed.
- d. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 14th March.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:32