

Minutes of Committee Zoom meeting 12/07/2022 20.00 PM

Present:

Mick Mead (MM), Julie Noakes (JN), Steve Wynn (SW), Marion Wynn (MW), Roy Ward (RW), Carole Ward (CW), Sharon Heritage (SH), Paul Walker (PW), Pete Ingham (PI), Shirley Ingham (SI), Emlyn Evans (EE)

Items:

1) Washup from 60th Anniversary meet in June

Generally, the meet went well and was well-received by the attendees. Many positive comments were made both during and after the event.

EE reported that the financial loss to the group for the event was circa [REDACTED] pounds, which the committee considered to be an acceptable amount.

SH mentioned that, whilst very profitable, if we were to run a Tombola again at any event, we should consider having more than one ticket sales point as its popularity ended up with queues stretching well across the field.

EE reported that there were still comments being made around the amount that the group has in the bank and as to how we should spend it – no suggestions or decisions were made at this time as to future expenditures, but the consensus was that we should not be shy of applying the funds to events if they merited it.

2) Up/down sides to our 10 pound weekend at Clanfield

CW stated that the offer was not a game-changer in that attendance was not significantly up (12 vans) but also mentioned that the weather was not as good as would have been expected, potentially discouraging people.

EE agreed with these views

CW also mentioned that there is no public transport at the location, and little to do in the area

EE mentioned the high prices at the local pub as a factor.

All agreed, however, that the recent provision of a new Elsan point made the site more attractive in general terms.

EE stated that the group lost approx. [REDACTED] pounds on the weekend, but that perhaps we could try the offer again, whilst taking into consideration that members from other groups may benefit from it as well as our own.

SH asked if other clubs (CCC/CAMC etc) subsidise their rallies? SW stated that CC at least do not do so to his knowledge from his CCC days.

SH gave the example of the school that she is considering for future use who charge 400 pounds for the use of the hall, which would mean that we would need 33 vans to cover the costs.

EE reminded the meeting that where we were offering a subsidy we stand to make a greater loss the more vans that attend.

SW mentioned that recent Nene Valley 8-day meet at Reydon, where the PUN charge was 10 pounds but the group managed to hire the hall for two nights and provide some refreshments and the usual quiz/game prizes whilst still presumably not being out of pocket? The meet was 50/50 split between group and visitors with a 32 van attendance at the highest point (Nene usually average 13-15 out of a membership of 76)

The general consensus of the committee was that the Clanfield idea was not a dead loss and was worth trying again

3) Potential knock-on for the remainder of the season (cancellations etc)

All felt that there was no real way to tell if any meets may have to be cancelled at this time.

Cropredy is unbooked and currently has 7 potential attendees, with possibly some from other groups to come

Bury St Edmunds is booked with 10+ currently, again with the possibility of more to come and still a month to go

Bagmere is unbooked and has 8 or so currently

4) Easter Holiday rally 2023 go/no-go

MM asked that a decision be made regarding the above, and that if it were happening then someone should take it over. He also explained the situation around awnings that had been raised by the site.

Basically, the site had stated that 25 vans with awnings would be too many for the available space – a proposal for reducing the number of vans had been made, but this was probably not workable.

CW thought that the absence of awnings would be a problem for most members in the case of both very good and very bad weather in April.

SW commented that most members would at least want to erect a popup shelter if not a full awning

MM commented that perhaps we should drop the planned meet in favour of something else?

SH mentioned Greatstones School which charges 6 pounds PUN plus 45 pounds for hall hire – whilst they are already booked up for 2023, they could be a possible for 2024, as they are near a beach etc

MM stated that we need to decide whether we want an Easter rally next year and also queried the absence of AGM and Xmas dates on the proposed list for 2023 – he also retracted his earlier email comments regarding the number of meets planned, which were due to a misunderstanding of another email message.

SH responded to the AGM query by stating that St Peters School is booked for the weekend of the 20th Oct, but that the following weekend 27th Oct might prove better for us as it falls in the school holidays, which would allow an earlier start time on the Friday – she will follow up on this and confirm with the committee.

CW and RW reported that there had been no reply from Hurst College regarding the 2022 Xmas event – there was discussion around alternative contact points, but these had been tried – RW will continue to chase on this.

SW requested a vote – do we proceed with the Heacham meet? – unanimous decision was NO

MM to contact the venue and cancel the request

5) Rally schedule for 2023 (partially covered above in 4)

SH asked if we should have a meet in March 2023

MM felt that we needed to arrange both earlier and later meets than those already planned

SH mentioned that St Peters School would be Ok for this, but that it would mean our visiting the location three times that year. In discussions with Dennis Rappitt of Nene Valley, Barnstones had been mentioned although there was some concern as to making contact regarding hall hire.

MM noted that the site owner has good contacts regarding the hall and can probably facilitate this.

MM raised the possibility of a mid-week meet but pointed out that there could be opposition to this in some circles where people work during the week.

SH was not planning to do this at this time, and suggested a Valentines meet at Barnstones

SH mentioned that the planned Steam Rally meet would be very good value at the price, because of the inclusion of admission in the camping price.

SH was of the opinion that, at the rates arranged thus far with sites, there would likely be no need to increase meet prices next year – in fact there may even be room for a reduction.

SH reported that several meets have been booked for 2023 (see attached list) but was unsure as to how many more to aim for?

MM believed that we should aim for the same number as 2022 (22 in total) with an average of 2-3 in the busier months.

ALL others – it was felt that there was no need for as many as that, better to have fewer in better locations, but that we may be light early and late in the season as was discussed earlier.

SH will continue to make bookings accordingly and advise the committee in due course

6) Going forward in terms of Committee etc.

This item was included as we are 14 weeks out from the 2022 AGM and many of the committee members will be out and about in the intervening period.

SW had previously stated that he_would_not be able to stand for Chair as had been suggested, as he would not be in the UK at the time – since then he has been advised that it is perfectly OK to do this so long as there is a suitable person available to run the AGM after the elections. This should preferably be someone who has been chosen as Vice-Chair.

CW had been previously mentioned as a possible Vice-Chair but was concerned that this could end up being a fairly long-term situation.

As such, no real decision could be made at this time so this item will either need to be discussed at a later date or resolved by waiting for nominations nearer to the AGM.

All committee members stated that they were happy to work with whomsoever is elected.

Regardless of the above, there will be a need for additional committee members as both MM and JN are standing down completely this year, so that our numbers will be down to 9 unless we can get some more volunteers from the membership.

Meeting ended at 2135.

Next meeting date to be advised