



Minutes for General Committee Meeting, Thursday 6th June 2019, 19.30 at the clubhouse.

Present: Nigel Cook, Dudley Lean, Bernie Hetherington, Carol Newman, Matthew Pearson (by invitation), Tia Reddish, John Scales, Marie Scales, Marilyn Standley, Martin Standley, Daniel Stoker, Eric Strudwick, Julie-Anne White, Nick White, Chris Wood

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from, Bill Kippen, and Mick Scales.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 7th May 2019

The minutes of the 7th May meeting were approved as a true record.

3. Matters arising not included elsewhere in the agenda

- Conditions of Use document – specifically item 2.4 Allocation of Spaces was - circulated to the GC during the meeting. This document will be discussed at the next meeting of the GC.
- Spam email was received by a GC member with no email address listed. Discussions advised that the immediately be deleted and not forwarded on.

4. Correspondence not included elsewhere in the agenda

There was no other correspondence to discuss.

5. Treasurers' Report and Finance

5.1 Update

- The GC received the figures for the five months to the end of May, the May report, and the comparison figures for the same time last year.
- £1800 loss, principally due to outboard engine maintenance, invoice from CBC for rubbish collection, and the annual maintenance cost for the security system.
- Bar – better margins than in 2018.
- Cruiser and dinghy storage much better aligned this year.
- Overall however, costs are only £1100 higher than 2018 and therefore income vs expenditure is £3500 higher than this time last year. We can therefore consider future outgoings and how we may wish to consider a modest surplus. It was noted that the Old Hard does require maintenance but there are unknown costs regarding clubhouse heating and the pontoon & walkway, which will require a substantial outlay and further thought.

6. House Matters

6.1 Events

- Recent events have been very successful. The Open Day went very well.
- A lot of booking enquiries have been received and some have resulted in confirmed bookings.
- Thanks were expressed to Carol and Marie for all the catering they have done for events recently.

6.2 Bar Committee

- Volunteers are urgently needed for bar duty otherwise, we may need to pay for bar staff on a regular basis.

7. Vice-Commodore's Report

7.1 Sailing Committee

- There minutes of the May & June Sailing Committee were received.
- Repairs to the pontoon walkway are required. (Hon Sec: Meeting scheduled with EA July 5th)
- The Lifting group has asked for a budget to replace the tracks at the end of the hard standing. The GC requested quotes for the costs involved and then the GC will consider these.

- Cadets update: cadets sailing has begun, 20 cadets (c.10-16 years of age) are signed up. More volunteers are always welcome – alert to be sent.
- Three more members of the club have gained PB2 qualifications.

7.2 Rigiflex Safety Boat Purchase Proposal

- The GC received a suggestion to purchase a Rigiflex safety boat.
- Rigiflex is 3.6m long powerboat and are a standard boat used in many different sailing clubs and institutions, and is relatively inexpensive. The Rigiflex has been recommended by a variety of people to Matthew Pearson.
- Cost of new with a trailer and engine is c.£5000. Running costs should be lower than current safety boats due to size engine.
- Reason for proposal: additional safety support boat - when the safety boats are downriver then there is no opportunity for members to use the water outside the clubhouse and upriver and down river to Arlesford Creek with safety boat support, so this would be good for both novice sailors and cadets. The boat is also easy to launch as it is lighter and would be used for cadet training as it is ideal for using with small boats (e.g. Topaz).
- The GC agreed to make enquiries with other clubs about how they use them and whether or not they are suited to estuary waters.
- The GC was generally in favour of the proposal and agreed it warranted further investigation.
- A further discussion took place about Torquedo outboard engines which are battery powered (no fuel). The GC asked Matthew Pearson to look into these and report back.
- The GC also received a paper from Marilyn Standley and Daniel Stoker about putting together an application for a grant to purchase boats to replace the club wayfarer and dinghy etc. The GC agreed that this was important and needs to be addressed soon. The GC asked Marilyn, Daniel and Matthew to pursue this together and discuss further with the RYA.

8. Membership

8.1 Applications

- At least 13 memberships are currently outstanding. Nigel is to supply Bernie with the remaining members names and he will contact individually.
- Application received from John Salmon, single membership; does not own a boat. Proposed: Richard Volkes, seconded: Eric Strudwick. The GC approved the membership.
- Application received Andrew Hearn, family membership; does not own a boat. Proposed: Mick Scales, seconded: Chris Wood. The GC approved the membership.
- Application received from Ginny Howard, family membership; does not own a boat. Proposed: James Heard, seconded: Daniel Stoker. The GC approved the membership.
- Application received from Tim Green, single membership; does not own a boat. Proposed: Nigel Cook, seconded: Chris Wood. The GC approved the membership.
- Application received from Shirley Woodruff, family membership; does own a boat. Proposed: Chris Wood, seconded: Nigel Cook. The GC approved the membership.

8.2 Confrontation Between Un-Named Members – 2nd June

- The GC discussed the situation that took place on 2nd June between two club members. The GC members who witnessed the event felt that incidents such as this bring the club into disrepute and should be referred to the GC. It was noted that both individuals have form for less than ideal behaviour on previous occasions. The GC referred to club's own code of conduct for members (club rule). The GC agreed that the VC write to the two members involved requesting a formal apology, quoting the relevant section of the club rules (Secretary to be cc'd into the email).

9. Buildings and Maintenance

9.1 Building Sub-Committee

- The Old Hard Hut floor will be inspected shortly. (Hon Sec Now done and floor repairs unnecessary.)
- The patio work is now complete and all parts for the porch have been obtained and it now requires construction.

- Lockers: the GC discussed the placement of small lockers for holder keys/phones/wallets etc. The general preference is for a set to go in each of the changing rooms. It was suggested that a set be obtained for one changing room and see how it looks.

10. Communications

10.1 WSC Alerts

- There were no items to discuss.

10.2 Facebook Page

- Daniel Stoker requested a Gmail account for all club photos to be put in once place. The GC agreed.
- Facebook Group with 15 people will be deleted as is not used.

10.3 Website

- A request was made for all the WhatsApp groups to be listed on the members pages of the website. Martin confirmed he will put this information online.

11. Group Memberships

11.1. WCKC

- The VC has been speaking to the WCKC secretary who has offered to get the sink and toilet in the Old Hard hut replaced (GC agreed funding).
- The WCKC are intending to host a BBQ at the Old Hard in reciprocation for the White House Beach trip that WSC organised recently.

11.2. Wivgigs

- A group membership has been agreed with Wivgigs, very similar to their previous agreement.

12. Membership Software (WebCollect Update)

The information deposited in Drobox looks good and hopefully WebCollect be in place for the next meeting.

13. Strategy Meetings (Update)

No meetings have taken place since the last GC meeting.

14. Meeting with Environment Agency

The Secretary provided an update to confirm that an exploratory meeting is to be arranged soon about the pontoons with the Commodore, VC and the Secretary.

15. Health and Safety (Standing Item)

15.1 Annual review of Health and Safety documents

- A member of the GC proposed purchasing an additional hand-held VHF radio for use on the water. The GC agreed to this proposal at a price of c.£75-100.

15.2 Welfare (Safeguarding) Officer

- The Safeguarding Policy needs to be checked and updated in line with the latest advice. Matthew Pearson and Sam Mayher are aware of this and will arrange to meet and complete in the near future. It was noted that this policy should be reviewed on a yearly basis.

16. Member Feedback (Standing Item)

There was no specific member feedback to report. It was however noted that both the White House Beach trip and the Open Day/Push the Boat out trip were both very well received. Thanks were also expressed from the Monday lunch club.

17. Any Other Business

- The Corsairs expressed their thanks for hosting their AGM at the Clubhouse.
- A member reported that their outboard had been stolen, marine police had been notified. The outboard was subsequently recovered.

- John Scales made the GC aware of Colne Watch. Colne Watch began last August following excessive speeding by members of the public on the river. John Scales created an online platform for reporting and then met with members of the Wivenhoe Town Council to discuss what we could do as water users to support the police in regulating speeding on the Colne. The Group has engaged with CBC with regards to signage on the water and are now in discussion with Rowhedge groups, the gig clubs, the Brightlingsea Harbour Master and Deputy Harbour Master, and the Marine Police. Meetings are taking place approximately once a month and have also been attended by jet-ski users. The Group are now taking the possible actions and proposals back to their respective Clubs and asking them if they would endorse the group. Further information (remit/ToR of the group) will be forthcoming. An endorsement of the incident reporting system has been received by the Marine Police. An alert notifying members of the reporting system (with the link) is to be sent out so that the wider membership can report incidents of the river – videos and photos can be uploaded as well as text. From this the police can open up a file on this to build up a picture/provide supporting documentation for investigations/prosecutions. John Scales and Daniel Stoker, who are both associated with the Group, confirmed that it does not breach GDPR as information is included on the Groups Facebook page and uploading page informing those who upload information as to how it will be used. Based on discussion with the Group, CBC are positive about installing shore-based signage about speed limits. Another aim would be to help foster a greater sense of responsibility by the water using community about the environment (river clean-ups etc.) It was also suggested that a link to the Colne Watch Facebook page be added to our website. John Scales and Daniel Stoker would like the Club to endorse Colne Watch. The GC would consider this endorsement at the next meeting upon receipt of further information about remit/purpose/aims etc. of the Group.
- It was suggested that alerts could go out that a Club night is on 'x' date but that there are no bar volunteers so there is no bar that night.
- Open Day: £11.14 was collected for the RNLI.
- Marie Scales would like to investigate the possibility of hosting a lunch for the more senior members of the Club whether still members or otherwise. The GC supported this idea.
- Town Regatta is on 5th July. It was proposed that the WSC have a stall on the Old Hard about the Club to allow members of the public to make enquiries.

Next meeting Thursday 4th July 2019, 19:30

Signed as a true record.....*Bernie Hetherington*.....July 4th 2019