

**The Hertfordshire Centre Caravan & Motorhome Club**

**Minutes of committee meeting held on 08 March 2023**

**Video conference**

| **Position** | **Members** | **Initials** | **Attended** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Chairman / Website Editor | Alan Evans | AE | Yes |
| Treasurer | Vanessa Cannon | VC | No |
| Secretary | Jean Hickman  | JH | Yes |
| Rally Secretary | Sandie Evans | SE | Yes |
| Social Secretary | Jenny Vardon | JV | No |
| Rally Equipment Officer / Health and Safety Officer | Gordon Pearcy | GP | Yes |
| Public Relations Officer | Michele Gilbert | MG | Yes |
| Attendance Officer | Sue Flood | SF | Yes |
| Audio Equipment Officer | Mick Lucas | ML | No |

**MEETING MINUTES**

|  | **Discussion** | **Action To Be Taken By** | **When** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Welcome** |  |  |
| 1.1 | The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members.  |  |  |
| **2.** | **Apologies for absence** |  |  |
| 2.1 | Apologies for absence were received from VC and ML. |  |  |
| **3.** | **Minutes of meetings held on 25 October 2023** |  |  |
| 3.1 | The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. |  |  |
| **4.** | **Matters arising from previous meetings** |  |  |
| 4.1 | It was noted that the fishing rules would be reviewed and updated and sent out by AE. | AE | March 23 |
| 4.2 | It was reported that VC had been researching the purchase of party tents and this would be discussed later on the agenda. |  |  |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s report**  |  |  |
| 5.1 | AE reported that he had led two winter walks which had been well attended. New ralliers had also taken part. He further reported that he and SE had attended the Bucks Valentine’s rally which had been good and they would attend the Beds icebreaker rally the following weekend. AE went on to advise that he continued to attend Regional meetings occasionally, however he did not plan to go to every meeting as he believed that they were not interested in talking about rallying.  |  |  |
| 5.2 | The Committee was asked if anyone was interested in putting themselves forward to become Chairman as it was AE’s last year. AE advised that he would be happy to carry on as Chairman if no one wanted to take on the post.  |  |  |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s report** |  |  |
| 6.1 | JH read out the Treasurer’s report in VC’s absence.It was reported that the bank balance at the end of September had been £18,941 and at the end of October £19,004. Expenditure had been £892, with the largest expense at £310 for VAT. Income was £955, which was mainly related to the New Year’s rally. |  |  |
| 6.2 | The bank balance at the end of October had been £19,004 and at the end of November £18,697. Income had been £1823, mainly relating to the New Year’s rally. Expenditure has been £2,130, mainly relating to the New Year’s rally expenses, eg hall hire etc. |  |  |
| 6.3 | The bank balance at the end of November had been £18,697 and at the end of December was £12,869. Income had been £2,423 which was various pre-paid rallies and the 200 Club. Expenditure of £8,250 had consisted mainly of late invoices for Searles rally, totalling just over £3,000 plus the remainder of the New Year rally expenses and the Air Ambulance donations. |  |  |
| 6.4 | The bank balance at the end of December had been £12,869 and at the end of January £12,798. Monies paid in totalled £1,598 which was mainly pre-payments for future rallies and 200 Club income. Expenditure had been £1,669 consisting of the site fees for the New Year rally and associated expenses. |  |  |
| 6.5 | The bank balance at the end of January had been £12,798 and at the end of February £13,084. All income of £2,217 was for pre-paid rallies. Expenditure had been £1931.47, the majority of which at £1,567 was a VAT bill for the final quarter of 2022. |  |  |
| 6.6 | VC’s report reminded the Committee that she had emailed all members regarding the 2022/23 accounts, which were with the accountants for auditing. Despite the Committee agreeing to spending some of the surplus funds, and indeed a lot of money being used to provide excellent social functions, the Centre still managed to make in excess of around £900, (the exact amount to be confirmed once audited.) This was largely due to extra funds accrued from the Sywell event rally last year which had had a very large turnout. |  |  |
| **7.** | **Secretary’s report**  |  |  |
| 7.1 | JH reported that she had informed the Regional Office of the date of the Centre’s AGM and had distributed the Spring newsletter. JH also mentioned that she had sent two get well soon cards, one to Kim Worby and Melanie Braud. |  |  |
| **8.** | **Rally secretary’s report**  |  |  |
| 8.1 | SE reported the following:Past rallies* The Christmas Party and New Year rallies seemed to have been successful with lots of positive comments from attendees.
* Two ambles had been well supported and both had new members joining in. It was hoped that the new members would attend future rallies.
* The Valentines rally with the Bucks Centre invite had gone well.
 |  |  |
| 8.2 | Future rallies* The bookings for the Thriplow Daffodils event were coming in well.
* The Easter rally had 31 bookings and all the goodies had been brought in advance as SE and AE would be coming back from their holiday the day before the rally.
* Chairman’s rally (Caribbean) had 20 bookings and the entertainment was booked**.** The food needed to be confirmed and booked.
* Unfortunately it had been necessary to cancel the rally at Old Warden as it was too expensive for the number of ralliers booked on.
* Sywell Classic had 25 booked and some ralliers had paid in full.
* The rally at Batemans Brewery had two spaces left.
* The Christmas party had one space left.
* Charmouth holiday rally was nearly full. JH advised that she would be visiting the site the following weekend. She proposed that one of the pitches was used as a site for the party tents. It would cost around £320 for two weeks, which the Committee agreed was reasonable when compared to the cost of some halls. JH agreed to try and negotiate the cost with the site, however the Committee was agreeable to paying for a pitch.
* Bookings were coming in for the New Year rally.
 |  |  |
| 8.3 | Programme 2024SE reported that work had started to book 2024 bank holidays, big rallies and AGM etc. She advised that the North London Centre (NLC) was struggling and had asked if Herts could do back to back invites for the bank holiday weekends. It was noted that the NLC had the responsibility to run the next Valentine’s rally, however it advised that it did not have sufficient members to run the rally of its own and had asked if it could be a joint rally, sharing costs and workload. It was pointed out that historically the Valentine’s rally made a loss and NLC understood this. The Committee discussed this request and agreed that the Herts Centre would not run the rally jointly, however it would be very willing to help in any way it could to ease the burden on NLC. |  |  |
| 8.4 | SE advised that she had finished printing the 2023 rally book and this had been sent out to members who had asked for a copy and all Committee members. It was noted that no more books would be printed. The book contained seven adverts, which covered the cost of the printing cartridges.  |  |  |
| 8.5 | The Committee was advised that the Spring newsletter had been sent out to all members. |  |  |
| 8.6 | MG reported that skittles would be played in the pub at Broom on the Friday night and she had booked the village hall for a social on Saturday night.  |  |  |
| 8.7 | SE noted that entertainment needed to be booked for the Christmas party rally.  | JV | Next meeting |
| **9.** | **Any Other Business** |  |  |
| 9.1 | JH read out the following report from VC.I have done a bit more research into purchasing new gazebos. The pop up type gazebos, the type you see on market stalls are 4 x 3m by 3m gazeboshop.co.uk £279 steel. They weigh about 25kg plus 11kg for the side walls. The aluminium ones weigh less but cost £489. There is guttering available when more than one is connectedThe ones the Centre have at the moment weigh 16 kg and the side walls are extra weight.Martin Findlay from Bedfordshire Centre has advised that they have been using Coleman Shelters for the last four or five years, which are still going strong. They are the dome shaped ones, which are very easy to put up. They have four of the medium sized ones 3.65m x 3.65m. They can be put together with guttering between. The price is £319.99 including full sides. However when I searched the internet I could not find the guttering, either they don’t manufacture them anymore or being out of season there is no stock. The weight is around 16 kgI also had a look at Outwell who also do the dome shelters, for £199.00 plus 2 side walls £55.00. They do have guttering available. However their design seems to involve ground tapes, presumably for stability, which would be a trip hazard. Although not that clear from the pictures, it may be possible to just not use them.VC recommended that the dome type shelters were the best, being both lightweight, robust and easy to put up. However a little more research is required before the final decision is made.SE offered to ask the Beds Centre if Herts could borrow two of their shelters to check if they were what was needed before purchasing.  | SE | April 23 |
| 9.2 | MG advised that she had a rally kit without a kit list and therefore did not know if the kit was complete. GP advised that all kits should have a list, however he would email over a list to MG. | GP | March 23 |
| 9.3 | MG and JH to develop a poster for the Thorpeness rally.  | MG/JH | March 23 |
| 9.4 | SE reported that Jacqui and Bill Wilson and Jim and Maureen Cutler had sold their caravans due to age and health. |  |  |
| 9.5 | AE raised the question of why people do not book onto rallies. MG thought that maybe it was because the rally programme started too early in the year. It was agreed to think of ways for people to get together without actually having to get their caravan out in cold weather.  |  |  |
| **10.** | **Close** |  |  |
| 11.1 | The meeting closed at 8.50pm.  |  |  |