

Horsmonden Social Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting: Friday 22 February 2019, 20:00

Present

Richard Edmed, Chris (Secretary) & Claire Reed, Colin Norman, John Ridley, Lindsey Chave (Chair), Ewen & Pat Kellas, Richard Norman, Michael Sykes, Ken & Sheila Vizard, Pauline Bell, Michael Skinner, Denis Keenlyside, Lawrence & Katy Arscott, David Watson, Geoff Mills, Tim & Ann (Treasurer) Coyne, David & Christine Turnbull, Diane Baylis, John Fogerty, Nick Belton, Bill & Pam Payne, Venice Fenning, John Westget, Cliff Harley, Stuart & Caroline Davis, Paul Fluery, Alan Couchman, John Couchman, Karl Biscoe, Jan & Pete Botten

Apologies for absence

Heidi Chadwick, Robert & Precilla Dicketts, June Fluery, Vera Backler, Ann Millward, Ray Moon, Grenville Davis, Carry Smyth, Charles May, Rose Harild, Alison Scott, Dave Bell, Charlie Baron, Jackie Norman

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and asked if those present could observe a minutes silence in memory of those members who had passed away since the last AGM.

Minutes of the last meeting (held on 22 February 2018)

The minutes were approved without amendment.

Proposed by: Geoff Mills

Seconded by: Janice Botten

Chair's report

The Chair reported that 2018 had been another busy year for the Social Club, used most days by various groups, organisations and for private gatherings, proving to be at the heart of a great village.

Thanks were offered by the Chair to the team of volunteers, whose time and energy keep the bar and premises in good order and who put on many events for members to enjoy. Special mention was made of Carry who leads the team of gardeners, Pete and Simon for looking after the cellar and Jan Botten, John Couchman, Kell & Dave Bell.

Catherine Catchpole also received thanks for her continued support in preparing the Club's accounts.

The Chair highlighted donations made by the Club in 2018 to groups such as HoVEC, the Nostalgia Group, Church, Bowls Club and the Over 60s Club and that the Club now regularly hosts fundraising events for the likes of the Kindergarten and FoHPS.

The Chair acknowledged that membership was down in 2018 from the previous year and that the Committee would be looking at ways of actively increasing membership over the coming year. She noted that the majority of the Club's members are over 60 and therefore to attract younger members the committee would be looking at the types of events the Club hosts and at ways of redesigning the interior to make it more inviting while keeping it practical for the groups that use the premises. Members were invited to offer ideas to committee members regarding possible events.

The Chair acknowledged the success of screening the 6 Nations Rugby on the Club's big screen and highlighted a number of the future events the committee has planned, such as St George's Night, the Club's support for the HoVEC Summer Festival and the Club Beer Festival.

The Chair concluded her report by thanking the volunteers from the Committee who had done such a great job in 2018, acknowledging in particular those who were stepping down, Richard Norman (after 10 years on the Committee), Dennis Keenlyside and John Edmonds-Bell.

Proposed by: David Watson

Seconded by: Claire Reed

Secretary's report

The Secretary reported that, after two years, the Club have concluded the negotiations for the new Lease of the premises with the Parish Council. Members were made aware of this back at the AGM in 2017, where the Constitution was last updated.

Since then four members of the Club Committee, Lindsey, Ann and Chris as the Officers of the Club (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively) and Nick Belton became Trustees, as per the terms of the Club's new Trust Deed. This in turn enabled them to sign the Lease on behalf of the Committee. The Lease completed its final stage of registration with the Land Registry on 2 February this year, thereby securing the future of the Club, in its current premises until September 2043.

Copies of both the Constitution and Trust Deed are available on our website and the Secretary reported having received the actual Lease documentation from our solicitors yesterday, thereby completing this somewhat lengthy and occasionally painful process for the committee.

The Secretary offered thanks to all Club Committee members and the team from the Parish Council for their roles in this substantial piece of work.

In addition the Secretary reported that all licenses had been maintained, including the addition of the TV licence enabling the popular screening of the Six Nations and other events such as the Royal Wedding last year.

Music licences have changed slightly so that PPL and PRS (live and record music, which cover everything from playing of CDs at coffee mornings to live music events) now combined, cost of which has risen slightly, but this reflects the increase usage of the Club as the Club pay for this retrospectively based upon the number of occasions live or recorded music are played and to the number of people to which it is played to.

Alcohol licence has also maintained and the Club is no longer applying for temporary event notices (TENs) every time we have a party or special event after changes made to the licence in 2015, saving the Club a reasonable amount of money each year.

The booking system for events, now runs entirely through the website continues to work well. Two or three requests are received a week at busy times meaning there is rarely a week when there's not something happening, as the Chair reported, the Club is well used by the community.

The Secretary acknowledge that there have been some teething problems with emailing the newsletter and this year the Committee have had to ensure email addresses are collected again from all members, whether new or renewing, to ensure compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Members can however still read the newsletter in the Club in hard copy or on the website a few days after it's sent out. The Committee also aim to keep members up to date through the column in the Parish News which Kell, and now Chris write each month.

Proposed by: Sheila Vizzard

Seconded by: Pam Payne

Treasurer's report (accounts)

Ewen Kellas (Kell) presented the accounts on behalf of the Committee, acknowledging the work of Ann Coyne (Treasurer) and Catherine Catchpole who prepares the Club accounts each year.

Kell drew members attention to a number of key points in the accounts:

- Bar sales £6k up on previous year which represents a recovery from a previous drop (2016 - 2017), without the Committee having put up prices
- % profit down, but close to the recommended 40% - the Committee will monitor this in 2019
- £250 loss on events and entertainment, but this an improvement on 2017 and is a reflection that the Committee purposefully do not seek to make a profit on events, making them accessible to members, money is made through bar sales
- Membership subscriptions are down slightly, in part due to a decrease in members over the past two years. Members are also making less donations (in addition to their membership fee) given the overall financial health of the Club
- Snooker income is up on last year, a reflection of the amount the table is now being used. There is also a new maintenance contract in place for the table (at an improved cost)
- Cleaning is up slightly
- Legal fees reflect the solicitor costs associated with the Lease, referred to by the Secretary earlier
- Waste removal costs reflect the Club's desire to improve its recycling
- Furniture and repairs down slightly (full details broken out on p2 of the accounts)
- Donations down slightly

End of year position: £56,826 in the bank, compared to £49,035 the previous year.

Kell invited questions on the accounts from the membership. No questions were posed.

Proposed by: Pam Payne

Seconded by: Venie Fenning

Election of the Club Committee

Existing members of the Committee stepping down: Richard Norman (10 years service), Dennis Keenlyside (2 years service) and John Edmonds-Bell (1 years service). The Secretary offer a huge thank you to all of them for their significant contribution to the Club.

The Secretary explained that the Committee requires a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16, including the Officers and Trustees, but excluding the President and 14 nominations had been received, therefore as with previous years a secret ballot is not required, unless there are any objections from members - no objections were received.

The Secretary informed members:

1. Existing members of the Committee willing to stand again as officers/ Trustees (four Trustees are required as per the terms of the Club's Trust Deed): Lindsey Chave (Chair), Ann Coyne (Treasurer), Chris Reed (Secretary) and Nick Belton (Trustee)
2. Existing members of the committee willing to stand again: Richard Edmed, Bill Payne, Paul Fleury, Heidi Chadwick, David Watson and Alison Scott
3. Members nominated to join the committee this year: Billie Edmonds-Bell, Janice Botten, Lawrence Arscott and Diane Baylis

Proposed by: Caroline Davis

Seconded by: Pat Kellas

The Committee also retain Ewen Kellas in the position of President.

Any other business

The Chair invited members present to raise any other (none had been received by the Secretary in advance of the meeting).

Claire Reed: Noted that the 2018 minutes referred to possible improvements to the Club, including exploring the removal of the pillars. The Chair said that this was discussed last year, however it will be looked at fully as part of the wider review of the Club's interior this year.

Tim Coyne: Requested members offer their thanks to Lindsey as Chair for her work over the last year.

The Chair closed the meeting with a final round of thanks for the Committee and other volunteers for their support over the past year.

The meeting closed at 20:22.