

Horsmonden Social Club

MINUTES OF THE AGM: 7.45 p.m., FEBRUARY 19th. 2016

Present: Ewen Kellas (Chair), Alan Couchman, Nick Belton, Anthony Hacker, Richard Edmed, Chris Reed, Richard Norman, Ann-Marie Coyne, Jan and Peter Botten, Carry Smyth (minute-taker), David and Pauline Bell, Pat Kellas, John and Jean Shekyls Philip Taylor, Ken and Pat Mills, John Couchman, Robert and Priscilla Dicketts, Geoff Mills, Chris Reed, Richard Norman, David Tuhill, Diane Bayliss, Thelma and Michael Skinner, Lindsey Chave, Christine Turnbull, Paul Fleury, Ray Moon, Simon Jupp, Pam and Bill Payne, Jennifer Naylor, Robin Starkie, Roger Warson, Pat and Ken Mills, June and John Izbicki, Tim Coyne, Philip Taylor, Granville Davies, Malcolm Burgess-Smith, Gloria Young, David Stevens, Billie and John Edmonds-Bell.

Apologies: Ken and Sheila Vizard, Maurice and June Lovell, Patrick Smyth, Kevin and Isobel Kerrigan, Nigel Thorpe, John Goff, Heidi Chadwick, Paul Botten

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Read and agreed: proposed by John Izbicki, and seconded by Jan Botten.

2. Chairman's Report: Ewen Kellas began by reflecting on the deaths, this year, of Roger Lovell and Bosh Mannering and there was a minute's silence in which to remember Club Members and friends who had died in past years.

The Chairman presented a summary of his report, a full copy of which will be found on the Horsmonden Social Club website and on the notice board. He said that the Club had enjoyed another successful year. With the finances in good order it has been possible to subsidise the price of tickets for events and to help several local organisations and charities with donations. The programme of refurbishment and maintenance has continued. This year work on the Memorial Garden and the forecourt was completed, a new carpet was laid, furniture was bought, a second oven was installed and the Club redecorated. The aim to increase membership of younger age villagers was not achieved, but the groups such as the FOHPS and Kindergarten have used the Club for several events. It is hoped that this introduction to the Club will encourage people to join in later years. Activities such as bingo, darts, snooker, table tennis and the film club continue to be popular and several local groups use the Club on a regular basis. Membership is now over 450. The bar, run entirely by volunteers, has increased sales this year. Kell ended by thanking the committee and the volunteers who help in so many ways to run the Club and contribute to its success.

3. Secretary's Report: Chris Reed reported that licences had been renegotiated so that we no longer have to apply for extensions for special occasions. During the year, in an effort to attract young people and inform them of Club activities, use had been made of social media, such as Face Book. Work on drawing up a contract between the Parish Council and the Social Club for lease of the Club continues. Members will be informed of progress. The report was proposed by John Couchman and seconded by Nick Belton.

4. Treasurer's Report: Ewen Kellas thanked Ann Coyne, Ken Mills and auditor Catherine Catchpole for their work in keeping the Club finances in good order and presenting the accounts to Club members. The Club has a healthy surplus. EK went through the report, a copy of which had been printed for those present. He pointed to a slight drop in bar margin, but increased sales and

outlined items bought and listed under 'miscellaneous'. Profit on events was small because ticket prices were kept low and the Club had been able to make a number of donations.

Diane Bayliss asked about the up-keep of the clock and was told that this was the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Mike Skinner asked about the new lease and was told that we pay a 'peppercorn' rent and that most of the existing arrangements will continue, with the PC responsible for exterior and the Club the interior upkeep.

The treasurer's report was proposed by Anthony Hacker and seconded by Richard Edmed.

5. Annual Subscription: The Chairman said that the Committee had decided to recommend that there be no increase in subscription for 2016/2017. There were no objections from the floor. This action was proposed by Tim Coyne and seconded by Nick Belton.

6. Election of Committee:

Two of the current committee members, John Sheppard and Doug Croker are stepping down from the committee because of work commitments. The Chairman thanked John for his help over the years, particularly in setting up Face Book and assisting with events, such as Horsmonden Has Talent and Young Musicians. He thanked Doug for his hard work in getting World Pay set up. EK then went on to say that Alan Couchman, our very hard-working President of more than ten years, was stepping down. EK gave heartfelt thanks to AC for all that he had done in establishing the Social Club and contributing so much to its success. AC was presented with a certificate, a card and gift. Photographers Granville Davies and Phil Taylor were on hand to capture the occasion. Alan Couchman thanked members and said that he was stepping down at a time that the Club was going from strength to strength and he was confident that it would continue to do so.

EK said that the rest of the committee was willing to stand. Nominations for Gloria Young and Billie Edmonds-Bells had been received. There were no objections from members present to the re-election of the current members and it was agreed that the following 12 people will form the new committee: Chairman: Ewen Kellas; Hon. Treasurer: Ann Coyne; Hon. Secretary: Chris Reed/Carry Smyth; Committee Members: Richard Norman, Dave Bell, Lindsey Chave, Anthony Hacker, Richard Edmed, Gloria Young and Billie Edmonds-Bell. This was proposed by Robert Dicketts and Pat Kellas.

7. Any Other Business:

Nominations for President: Phil Taylor asked if we would be appointing another President. The Chairman explained that President was an honorary role and there was no urgency in making the appointment. He said that the immediate concern was to find ways of taking over the many vital jobs undertaken by Alan Couchman in his years as a 'hands-on' President and Club volunteer.

Leadership: Anthony Hacker wanted to draw members' attention to the fact that Ewen Kellas will be stepping down from his role as Chairman in a year's time. In the months to come we will be looking for someone to take over this very important role.

CR explained that one of the tasks of the new committee will be to nominate a Vice Chair or deputy in preparation for next year.

7.5. Vote of Thanks to Chairman: Ken Mills thanked all the Committee, and in particular Alan and Kell for the hard work that goes into ensuring the continuing success and smooth-running of the Club.

There being no other business the Meeting Closed at 8.40 p.m.