

Horsmonden Social Club

MINUTES OF THE AGM: 7.45 p.m., FEBRUARY 24th. 2017

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, Philip Taylor, Ken and Pat Mills, John Couchman, Robert and Priscilla Dicketts, Geoff Mills, David Tuhill, Diane Bayliss, Thelma and Michael Skinner, Lindsey Chave, Christine and Dave Turnbull, Paul Fleury, Ray Moon, Pam and Bill Payne, Roger Warson, Glenda Trinder, John Izbicki, Tim Coyne, Philip Taylor, David Stevens, Billie and John Edmonds-Bell, Ken and Sheila Vizard, Patrick Smyth, Heidi Chadwick, Michael Symes, Venie Fenny, Doug and Carol Croker, Mervyn and Sally Purchase, Steve and Jan Wilkes, Nick and Jane Gerard-Pearse, Andy and Helen Winsor, Caroline and Stuart Davis, Granville and Hillary Davies, Matt Richards, Charlie Baron, Jenny Stevenson, Angie Jenkins, John Westgate, Cliff Harley, Ray Moon, Robin and Diana Morton, Carole and Alan Armstrong, Ralph Beney, John Fegan, Terry White, David Watson, Henry Lovell, Rupert Lovell, David Stevens, Paul Seal, Nick Stephens, Neil Rigby, Lindsey Chave, (+ four others).

Apologies: Jeremy Waters, Jackie Stanton, Claire Reed, Dennis Keenlyside, Gloria Young, Gill and Mike Hollman, June Fleury.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Read and agreed.

2. Chairman's Report: Ewen Kellas began by asking us to remember Club members Eric Barham and Richard March who died during 2016.

EK then went on to say that the past year had been another of continued success for the Club. He praised the efforts of the Committee and of the many volunteers who give their time, energy and expertise to complete the tasks needed to ensure the smooth running and success of the Club. Having completed refurbishment of the Club and in a strong financial position the challenge is to maintain the spirit of endeavour and ensure that surplus funds are spent wisely on local community activities and charities.

Membership reached around 500 at the end of the year. We continue to take steps to encourage younger people to join the Club and some progress has been made by offering a range of events and actively encouraging other village organisations to use our facilities for meetings and fundraising.

EK reminded us that he was stepping down from his role as Chairman after eleven years in office. His time leading the Club from near extinction to its present day position had been most enjoyable.

He said that he received the accolades, but success could not have been achieved without the tireless efforts and the enthusiasm of many volunteers. Ewen Kellas said that he is confident that Lindsey Chave is the ideal person to take over the role of Chairman, that she will bring much to the continued growth of the Club.

EK ended by giving heartfelt thanks to all.

The full report will be found on the Horsmonden web-site and the Club notice-board.

3. Secretary's Report: Chris Reed reported that:

Licences, insurances and security assessments had been maintained.

Over the year we continued to build our social media presence, with more than half the Club membership now regularly engaging with Facebook

Website: CR thanked Phil Taylor for his hard work on our web-site. The Club is now building a new web-site to meet the needs of current and future members. Information on the Club website will be available in due course, but for now a programme of events for the whole year will be found on the Club notice board. More will be added on a regular basis.

Booking procedure: the new booking system facilitates the use of the Club by members and other village groups including the Kindergarten, St. Margaret's Church, FHOPS, HoVEC etc.

More live music will be played at the Club in future. Entrance on these nights will be free to members. Guests will be expected, as always, to sign in and put £1.00 in the charity box.

Constitution: in preparation for the new lease with the Parish Council it has been necessary to update and make small amendments to the Constitution. CR explained that the Club is not a registered charity, but an informally constituted organisation, governed by the Constitution. This document outlines how the Committee is elected, how the Club will run and the expected conduct of the Members. Alterations to the Constitution will enable us to sign a lease with the PC securing 25 years use of the premises. It will also allow us to sign other formal legal documents, if required, in due course. The Committee is required to bring changes of the Constitution to the attention of Members at an AGM or EGM (Emergency General Meeting.)

A draft of the new Constitution was posted on the board in advance of the AGM. CR asked members if they had any comments. Phil Taylor commented on an anomaly in point 73 of the Constitution. CR thanked him for bringing a typographical error to his attention.

The amended Constitution was proposed by Jan Botten and seconded by John Izbicki.

4. Elections for Members of the Committee:

1. Existing members of the Committee stepping down: Ewen Kellas as Chairman, Anthony Hacker. Existing members standing for election again: Paul Fleury, Billie Edmonds-Bell, Richard Norman, Carry Smyth, Nick Belton, Richard Edmed, Dave Bell. There were no objections to all being voted onto the Committee again.
2. Proposed new members of the Committee: Heidi Chadwick, Bill Payne, Denis Keenlyside. There were no objections to the election of these members and they were all thus welcomed onto the new Committee.
3. Officers proposed: Chair: Lindsey Chave; Secretary: Chris Reed; Treasurer: Ann-Marie Coyne. The members agreed to their election.
4. Nomination for President: the Committee proposed that the position, left vacant since Alan Couchman stepped down, be taken by Ewen Kellas. Members whole-heartedly agreed to the appointment

5. Treasurer's Report: Ewen Kellas thanked Ann-Marie Coyne, Ken Mills and auditor Catherine Catchpole very much 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 was available to those present. There had been no major refurbishment this year, but the addition of comfortable chairs in the Club and picnic tables outside had proved popular. A shed had been erected at the back of the Club to house extra chairs etc. Because the Club continues to do well financially, members were charged little for tickets for events and the Club was able to make a number of donations.

To a question about rates, AM-C explained that the government re-introduced business rates which had been suspended for two years.

The treasurer's report was proposed by Robin Morton and seconded by Pam Payne.

6. Subscriptions: The Committee proposed that there would be no change in annual subscription, but that a joining fee be introduced. This the subscription for new Adult members would rise to £10.00 and that for Seniors and Juniors to £5.00. There were no objections from the floor.

7. Thank you to Kell:

At this point the new Chairman, Lindsey Chave asked Alan Couchman to say a few words. AC gave a very funny, heartfelt and rousing speech describing the early days of the Club when, despite considerable opposition and doubt about the project, he and EK managed to transform the Working Men's Club into a thriving social centre for Horsmonden. Throughout his speech he emphasised the importance of EK's contribution to the success of the Club.

EK was given a standing ovation and Diane Bayliss then commended AC on his speech.

EK and AC were shown framed photographs of themselves as Ex President and Chairman and EK was presented with small tokens of our gratitude.

8. Any Other Business:

There being no other business LC closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

