

**THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE
COMMITTEE MINUTES
MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2023
HINTLESHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Those attending were:

Chairman	Ron King
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	Janet Dobson
Treasurer	Will James
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson
Regional Rep	Chris Stammers
Webmaster	Julian Fincham-Jacques
Committee	Alison Stammers
Publicity	Vacant
Committee	Tina King

- 1. Apologies for Absence** - Graham Gosling gave apologies earlier for not being able to attend meeting.
- 2. Corrections to Previous Minutes** - None reported.
- 3. Signing of Previous Minutes** - Ron King, Chairman, agreed May Report.
- 4. Matters Arising on last Report** - Nothing noted.
- 5. Chairman's Report - Myself** and Denise have been away touring the northern parts of England during May. Part of the tour was attending Kelmarsh Hall, Northamptonshire as volunteers at the CAMC ClubFest 2023.

My role was "Campsite Crew Leader" for Anglia Region, CAMC. Suffolk Centre had another two families that volunteered to help, Andrew & Sally Gaffer and Malcolm & Sue Hall, siting in excess of three hundred units, with volunteers from Mid Anglia and South Essex Centres. Janice and David Kent, past Chairlady also assisted, they came from the Chairman's Lines and gave valuable help, also Natasha Terry came from the Event Crew lines and gave great assistance.

The ladies took on the role of admin, checking everyone in. The men folk sited the units, starting at 7.30am and finishing at 10pm. I personally clocked up 21kms walking the field. Although the day wasn't hot, but the sun shone, and we all ended up getting sun burnt and chapped lips.

At this point I would like to say thank you to Mark and Debra Terry with Natasha for being part of the "Event Crew" marking out 2500 pitches. They were on site from 7th May through to 31st May. Although not a volunteer, Chris Stammers (Suffolk Centre member) with his team was at ClubFest in a paid role, looking after security and first aid during the festival.

I did recognise some names that attended from Suffolk Centre, hopefully they had a good time. From general feedback, it seems the new format is a hit, as many people are already booking the early bird offer for the next year event being held at Weston Park, Shropshire 24th-28th May 2024. Next year they are talking about 4000 units attending.

After ClubFest, it was back to doing a Suffolk Centre rally ran by Garry & Connie Pyett, held at a new venue in Norfolk. The three-day rally took place at Runton Holme, between King's Lynn and Downham Market. Suffolk Centre welcomed Steve and Lynn Coggins as new members on their first rally as centre members. By all accounts they enjoyed themselves and indicated we would be seeing them again.

6. Vice Chairman's Report - Post vacant. Janet asked to follow up on the VC's box/other items still with Melody. Also, any files or paperwork under Publicity which could be emailed onto Secretary. Julian offered box could be dropped at his as nearest. Being the marshals also of the Lessingham rally later in the year, committee to follow up that all will go ahead with that rally as at time of printing no co-marshal had been given.

7. Other Rally Reports - Janet and Alan chaired the Bank Holiday rally at Clare Priory. Janet reported we had one new member and marshals able to organise a tour around the Priory. Weather was lovely during the day, chilly at night. A lovely venue.

No report received from Gary Pyett who chaired the Clopton Rally, but an incident report given to Ron King as the flag and pole had been stolen from the rally field. The police were informed but no police incident number had been given. The rally had been disturbed by cars being driven in the car park doing "do-nuts". A search of the local area was done.

8. Treasurers Report - Will reported that having completed and sent the signed change of contact, no correspondence or email details have been sent for internet banking. After contacting them, forms received, but no-one had thought it useful to inform over some issues. Need to change contact details before attempting to update mandate. Forms to be available for signature at the June meeting, Janet to provide some information showing change of Treasurer.

The forms for mandate change were signed at the meeting, once these processed, we can move onto internet banking side.

The hall for Natter and Chatter 2024 has been booked, Will given the forms to make payment but this is not due until early next year.

The Easter rally was discussed re outstanding issue. To wait another month, to go on Agenda for July.

It was queried about the Centre having a small savings account other than the funds lodged with the Club. It was noted that this was stopped some years back by it was thought the HSBC itself but to be queried if Club decision.

It was asked about marshals using their own bank accounts to transfer end of rally funds. Due to banks closing branches etc., not seen to be a problem. Checked under Guide to Centres, acceptable as long as committee is aware, all agreed this practice can continue as the accounts will be given to Will.

9. Secretary Report -

9.1. Membership - Janet reported that on Friday 2nd June there were 1,264 members, number of April members listing void were 73. For May listings there are 94 to renew.

9.2. Correspondence as received: None.

9.3. Attendance - Couple to sort out.

10. Rally Secretary Report - Alan reported currently 8 rallies listed plus one meeting booked. He felt this is a worrying situation and whether the Centre has any problems we need to be made aware of.

No further 4Bs received.

If the amount of content stays low, we may be in a position to order a cheaper style of book - stapled instead of as current - or possibly ring binder.

Will look at contacting our advertisers shortly.

Subsequently the Newmarket Rally for 2024 has come into the programme plus there is ClubFest 2024 to go into the list.

Noted the Mid-Anglia Centre has had to cancel 5 rallies recently, believed to be down to lack of support.

It was also discussed about the viability of providing a Rally Marshal Rally once again, to thank current marshals and to give all information to members considering joining the Marshal Team.

11. Publicity - This post is now vacant. Committee wanted the Centre leaflet to be sorted out, Chris offered to just look at updating this so we can get future advertising out to dealers etc.

12. Rally Equipment - A couple of issues. Firstly, there was a query over whether the equipment bags were being totally checked before being passed on as this affects the next marshals. Easy to just take out what was needed without making sure there is the correct amount of everything. Several of the signs also need checking and possibly replacing.

With the flag being taken at a rally recently, it brought forward the discussion on replacing the flags. This would have been down for discussion later in the year. Ron had approached our supplier, and as one of the points raised by marshals had been putting it together each time, an alternative of the "feather" flag had been asked. After discussion and with offers of discount/free postage a price of £280 each had been given. Committee decided to go ahead and purchase 2 of this style with Chris Stammers proposing and Julian Fincham-Jacques seconding. Ron reported that he had been offered a donation towards a new flag from the marshal of the rally. Janet to contact on behalf of the Centre.

13. Webmaster - Not much from me, gradually clearing delay in updating website with less critical updates, i.e minutes & agendas that were delayed due to work and family issues the first few months of this year and were lower priority.

As always, if anyone spots something I have missed that needs updating, please drop me a message so that it can be amended asap.

14. Newsletter - No report given.

15. Regional Meeting - The next meeting is by Zoom in September. Ron had been asked if Suffolk Centre would organise a rally on behalf of the Region at Banham Zoo next year - possibly end March to after Easter. There would be no electric, forum on the Saturday morning - work still in progress. This would be run by Ron King/Mark Terry. While dates still clear in programme it was pointed out that we have a regular Centre rally which is weekend after Easter and it was hoped there would be no clash in the diary.

It had been brought up about offering Vouchers for new ralliers. To be looked at for next year.

16. Other Committee / Any Other Business

Following on from all discussed would a membership survey be an idea - needs to be totally anonymous - Julian to follow up. What questions/answers do we need, cost etc. It was sadly noted that there seems to be an underlying attitude, by some members, towards rally marshals which is uncalled for. The old attitude that they get a "free" rally or are somehow paid to do it seems to be being said and needs to be addressed. The Centre does not pay marshals to organise rallies, they volunteer to do it. They give up their time which extends both before and after the rally. Alison offered to put a post into Facebook acknowledging the marshals.

Julian is to take Rally Chairman at the Bromeswell rally this coming weekend.

Next meeting Wednesday 12th July 2023. Ron asked that this be a face-to-face meeting again at Hintlesham. Janet to check what is booked.

Items for next Agenda requested -
Nominations for next year's committee.
Issues on past Easter Rally.

Meeting closed at 9.26 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: All those mentioned in this report have given their permission for their data to be used.