

THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024
MEETING BY TEAMS

Meeting opened at 7.35 p.m.

Those taking part were:

Chairman	Ron King
Secretary	Janet Dobson
Vice Chair/Webmaster	Julian Fincham Jacques
Treasurer	Will James
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson
Regional Representative	Chris Stammers
Newsletter	Diane Fitch
Equipment	Paul Fitch

Item 1. Apologies for Absence - Trevor Smith was unable to join the meeting and sent apologies.

Item 2. Corrections to Previous Minutes - None noted.

Item 3. Signing of Previous Minutes - The minutes for December 2023 and meeting called January 2024 were agreed and put into records.

Item 4. Matters Arising on minutes from last Meetings:

Flyerpress/printing and outcome.

A discussion took place giving options of continuing to press for discount, taking it further or drawing a line and paying the invoice. It was agreed to pay the invoice but advise Flyerpress that we are disappointed in their approach, although falling back on T&C their lack of professionalism considering past work. They will not be approached for further work. Janet to contact them and advise of decision.

Item 5. Chairmans Report - Happy New Year to all our members, hope you were able to enjoy the Christmas and New Year Festivities.

On 8th January 2024, an extraordinary meeting of the committee was called, via Zoom, to discuss the problem that has arisen between Flyer Press printers of the Suffolk Centre Rally Book. Over many years, we as a Centre, have had no problems with printing and format of the rally book, but for some reason Flyer Press did not follow the instruction from the Rally Secretary. Just to say things were missed by the committee in the final proof reading and the book was printed, but not in accordance with the Centre instructions.

I believe the situation has been caused by a new member of staff at Flyer Press, treating our book as a magazine, instead as a book, also double printing pages and missing some out.

Over the New Year period myself and Denise attended the Invitation Rally from North Essex at Trinity Showground. Suffolk Centre was well represented, filling at least six tables.

The first weekend of 2024 saw Denise and I attending the 'The First Rally of the Year' at Saxtead Mill Public House, organised by Carole & Nick Harbottle. As usual the food was first class.

Burn's Supper Rally took place at Hallowtree Scout Camp, Nacton over the weekend 19th - 21st January 2024. As usual a good weekend was held, in keeping with the Burns theme. I welcomed first time rally couple to Suffolk Centre, Carl and Sharon Reeder and presented them with a First Rally Plaque.

The Winter Warmer rally at Hallowtree Scout Camp from 9th-11th February 2024, replacing what used to be Valentine's weekend. The marshals were close to cancelling the rally, due to a lack of interest being shown from members. After some negotiations with the Landowner, they managed to get a reduction in hall hire costs, which in turn made the weekend viable cost wise.

I got a phone call on the Tuesday prior to the rally, from a worried Marshal to say that four Units had cancelled on Monday and wondering what to do next. He informed me, he was concerned that the rally might run at a loss.

This seems to be a practise that members tend to be doing in recent years and nobody is doing anything to deter such a practice. In my early days with the Centre, my wife broke her wrist as we were getting ready to attend a rally. Did the right thing and informed those concerned that we couldn't attend, but still ended with a fine and we paid! It seems excuses are being used for not attending rallies and cancelling after the final booking date, causing problems for marshals and I wonder why we can't get people to run rallies for Suffolk Centre. The marshals said they thought moving the Natter & Chatter away from the rally weekend had affected numbers and are not prepared to run the rally next year.

Janet advised, looking at the attendance figures, that numbers were on par with 2023.

On a brighter note, from the rally, Tony & Karen Reed celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the beginning of the week. It was recognised by a cake being backed by Carol Larcombe, along with an assortment of small cakes for all the assembled to enjoy.

Although the Marshals struggled with numbers, a good weekend was laid on, including Table games, Three Course Dinner and a Disco by A! Disco.

I welcomed David and Caroline Litchfield to their first Suffolk Centre Rally and presented them with a First Rally Plaque.

Ron advised that a few rallies needed someone to cover as Rally Chairman. The holiday rally in France - suggested Mark Gowers as he is booked on. Clopton - Janet & Alan possible - to check dates. Woolverstone - to look at later in the year.

Item 6. Vice Chairman's Report - Julian had nothing to report.

Item 7. Other Rally Reports - None.

Item 8. Treasurers Report -

- 2023 Accounts well progressed. The (inherited) spreadsheet has many tedious cross checks and validations. Thankfully Paul Wade has been willing to advise, but he's not that quick! Just waiting for a few pithy queries re VAT. Once the figures are finished I'll send a draft to the Committee, finished VAT return for the whole of 2023 to CAMC and send the draft accounts to the Auditors.
- In compiling the accounts, I've noticed that some rally site and expense receipts didn't come through, which has reduced the VAT recovery slightly. I'll remind Marshalls as I get returns in 2024.
- Thorpeness 2024 deposits nearly all in - site is nearly full. 2023 site fee for Ogilvie Estates (£3,950) now paid - took months for them to confirm their bank account details. Hence creditor accrued at 2023 year in our accounts.
- Rayner Refund saga. They eventually advised me of their bank details (after the cheque was signed at the November 2023 Committee but before they confirmed their address). So, she's got her £50 back. I asked HSBC to ask Barclays to trace the £50

paid to the wrong Sort Code/Account Number combination, to my amazement they found it and returned the £50 into our account. It had gone into a valid sort code/account number, the account holder thought they'd got a gift of £50 but have now had it taken back!

- I now have a HSBC Debit Card (could be useful for certain purchases e.g. online orders).
- I would like to propose opening a deposit account with HSBC. We usually have >£18,000 in the account, over half of which is Thorpeness deposits. I'm uneasy about having a high balance in case of fraud and we might as well get some interest - only likely to be circa £300 a year based on their current rate of 1.9% but we might as well have it. *This was discussed and agreed, Julian Fincham-Jacques proposed and seconded by Janet Dobson*

Working practices review: From Ian Grover, 18th January 2024. Will provided a response following this review. Noted a response of about a third of Centre. Appears this is being extended to cover website & member communication. Looks like further information will be sent in due course.

It was brought up, following comments by members, on the use of envelopes now provided for Marshals. All marshals were notified they were being done and were available at AGM or posted on request. The reason being that they follow what the Club used to supply (now understand they may be available again) enabling a breakdown of rally fees to be transparent. This has not happened, despite advice, agreed Will to contact as Treasurer and update next meeting.

Ron asked if we had a figure for the Charity to pass to EAAA at the Seasonal Launch. Will advised £1,892.03p.

Item 9. Secretary Report:

9.1. Membership - Janet reported that on Friday 9th February 2024, there were 1,182 members. Due to the Club system being down for around 10 days (not notified in any way), the list at beginning February showed a large loss of members. Initially showing that 76 members did not renew. Will have to wait for next Nominal report to be accurate on membership. The 9th of February report showed 27 had now come back in again.

9.2. Correspondence received:

- a. Message from members Mr & Mrs Spraggon, members for over 20 years, advising they had now given up and thanking Centre for many memories and wishing future success.
- b. Notification from Club on the essential rules and guidance for organising Centre rallies.
- c. Reply from Club re enquiry over current situation with printers. They are unable to advise, would recommend Centres focus on being digital. To consider any costs of reprints.
- d. Message from Centre member over handbook situation and any reprinting. *Copy of message was seen by committee and decision taken that any re-printing at this time could not be justified. What happens with regard to printing the next book will be discussed later in the year. Janet to advise outcome.*
- e. Email from member over no contact details being put up on the website edition. This was sent to Rally Secretary who has passed to me. *A copy of the question and reply by Rally Secretary had been shown to committee. After discussion, Janet to advise the security issues over this, certainly since the Cyber-attack on the Club, that specific emails are provided for marshals to use.*

f. Advice from Club that sadly East Warwickshire Centre was unable to form a committee nor merge with another Centre, so has gone into hibernation. Midland Centre as volunteered to monitor any 4B requests.

g. Update from Club re Centre emails and Cyber Security.

9.3. Attendance - Being updated as lists come in.

Item 10. Rally Secretary Report: Alan said a spreadsheet of dates for 2025 had been drawn up and was available and he planned at this stage to just take in bookings. Any rally details would not be asked for until later in the year.

Item 11. Publicity - No report.

Item 12. Rally Equipment - Paul confirmed that the equipment has now been collected and nothing more to report at this stage.

Item 13. Webmaster - Advised updates have been done. Julian queried if the equipment list for marshals was still current to use - all OK. Query over the plaque order form on the website, Chris confirmed is correct and OK to use. Chris asked that these newer forms please be used. They have been passed to marshals both electronic and printed in Marshals paperwork.

Item 14. Newsletter - Diane is hoping to get another edition out after Easter. Content was discussed, possible Buy & Sell as on website. Janet confirmed last edition went out in December and all new members get a copy when they join.

Item 15. Regional Meeting - Reports were given by Ron and Chris. Ron attended the morning meeting; Chris covered the forum in the afternoon. Points to note are:

Banham Zoo Anglia Region event. Pointed out that any animal taken should not be left unattended at any time in unit or car. This is a site requirement, not a Club or Centre one. Means whoever stays with the pet cannot attend forum or the entry to the Zoo.

Centre Facebook groups. Club would like to see Centres have an open page with the basic information about us, the what and when etc., for rallies. No personal information or adverts to be allowed. To be Centre monitored. As we already have the Friends of Suffolk Centre Group, suggested Chris liaise with Trevor who runs this to see if what the Club is asking for could be applied. We already have the requested Suffolk Centre members only Facebook Group.

A Social Media Champion was looked for and Chris Stammers will undertake this for Anglia Region.

ClubFest update, 3000 sold expected 3800 units. Review group updated need for change, constitution, new roles. Further information to come.

Ron gave details of meeting with updates on Centre issues. Was agreed that the Suffolk approach to booking rallies from their AGM has a lot going for it. Some other Centre rallies don't take bookings until really near the date.

Norfolk Centre has gone totally PDF with online bookings.

Next meeting is at the Regional event at Banham Zoo.

Item 16. Other Committee / Any Other Business

Seasonal Launch & programme.

List of ralliers given to committee. Winner of Don Alcock trophy agreed. Junior Trophy agreed. Fellowship plaques agreed at 8+ rallies. Advertised doors open at 10 a.m. Payment to be made for hall when key code will be given. Programme to be put together.

Next meeting Wednesday 13th March at Hintlesham Community Centre. Meeting to start at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 21.16

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