

**THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE**  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024**  
**BY TEAMS**

Meeting opened at 19.43

Those taking part were:

Chairman	Ron King
Vice-Chairman/Webmaster	Julian Fincham-Jacques
Secretary	Janet Dobson
Treasurer	Will James
Newsletter	Diane Fitch
Equipment	Paul Fitch
Publicity	Trevor Smith
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson

**Item 1. Apologies for Absence** - Chris Stammers was not able to join the meeting.

**Item 2. Corrections to Previous Minutes** - None noted.

**Item 3. Signing of Previous Minutes** - Minutes were agreed and accepted.

**Item 4. Matters Arising on minutes from last Meeting -**

**Treasurers Report.** Janet confirmed copies of all minutes for 2023 had been emailed to Griffin Chapman as requested.

**Newsletter.** Janet confirmed copies of the Spring Newsletter had been emailed to all members where possible.

**Any Other Business.** Rally Plaques - discussed further. Accepted we will need a Motion at the next AGM to bring in any changes. To give members options on changing for reasons of being eco-friendly, cost (affects the Admin Fee), possible special events only, do members still want these. Current provision needs to be looked at in process. Suggestion instead a plaque similar to membership cards - more paper based, easy to dispose of - example given of The National Trust card. Various suggestions to be followed up for meeting in June.

**Encouraging marshals/committee.** Put on Agenda again for June. Trevor offered to put together flyers showing value for money. Dealer Days. Booking venues and look for marshals, offering help where needed. Loyalty card. Do email round to members. Already emailed current marshals to see where any blank areas may be next year.

Ron King had been experiencing difficulties with system, was able to join meeting at this point.

**Item 5. Chairmans Report -**

Denise and I attended the funeral Of Mick Prentice at Seven Hills Crematorium, Ipswich on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2024. Many members of Suffolk Centre, past and present members also attended, followed by a wake at Newton Road Conservative Club, Ipswich

It has not been mentioned, but two milestones were reached at the Easter Rally at Trinity Park. Andy and Sally Gaffer received their 600<sup>th</sup> Special Rally Plaque for attending over 600 rallies with Suffolk Centre since May 1980, when they joined the Centre.

Not quite as many, Denise and I received our 500<sup>th</sup> Special Plaque for rallies done with Suffolk Centre since May 1991. Hopefully one day we might receive a Suffolk Punch Horse model, as other members of the centre have received in the past for achieving 500 plus rallies.

Over the May Day Bank Holiday Myself and Denise attended the "Sutton going on in Sutton" rally. A very good weekend of entertainment was laid on by the Marshals.

Friday was not the best of days, regarding the weather, it rained the majority of the time. Saturday onwards the weather improved with lovely sunshine. People took advantage of the weather and I notice some had caught the sun.

Friday evening, we were treated to great music from "Tricks of the Trade" which saw the dance floor busy through the night.

Saturday evening, we held Flagpole and welcomed new members to Suffolk Centre on their first rally, Phil and Kim Smith.

After Flag, a Chinese Auction took place, with lots of fun with the prizes that were on offer. Soon after the auction finished, we enjoyed a few games of Cash Bingo, where some of the winners donated their winnings to the Centre Charity. With the winning donations and other donations from people a total of £175.00p was raised for East Anglian Air Ambulance. Thank you.

It was a lovely rally to attend, and I would like to thank all the marshals for a great team effort.

Ron advised meeting that he will be away from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May heading to ClubFest, back after the Bank Holiday weekend.

**Item 6. Vice Chairman's Report** - Nothing to report.

**Item 7. Other Rally Reports** - None.

**Item 8. Treasurers Report** - Will provided a copy of the Audited Accounts for 2023 for agreement. Once signed they will be forwarded to the Club, also provide a summary for rallies for 2023 to date. The 2024 accounts and VAT are up to date. Some query over the figures put forward for the Easter Rally, Janet and Ron to follow up with Will. Payments for adverts in rally book, now one outstanding. The review in Working Practices for Treasurers had another update, sent to committee, further figures on attendance requested and had been provided. How rally bookings different in each Centre with Online Booking and opportunity to pay for the rally at the same time.

**Item 9. Secretary Report:**

**9.1. Membership** - Janet reported that on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, there were 1,139 members. Members going void from end March renewals were 69 - all where possible were contacted, 15 had replied sold up or not interested. Those to renew for April are 94. .

**9.2. Correspondence received:**

- a. Email from Will as Treasurer. Updated information on the Treasurer Review.
- b. From Club. A polite reminder to you all that your planned rallies in the National Parks for 2025 need to be submitted by close of business on Friday 14 June 2024. Please use the simple form linked below and complete one form per National Park authority.

**9.3. Attendance** - Updated as they come in. 3 recent rallies were invitations, request to those Centres for Suffolk members list.

**Item 10. Rally Secretary Report:** Alan reported that he had followed up on advertising in Facebook re Marshals. This has been done every year. All marshals for 2024 contacted re

any dates for next year - as yet no replies. Current list of rallies in programme circulated to committee.

Alan confirmed he had collected the newly printed Centre leaflets - printing and quality was very good, all passed onto Trevor. While there asked about the printing of handbooks for next year, very happy to quote. Also took up on another suggestion for style of book which they could handle in any way we wanted. Looking at that, Alan had emailed committee about contacting members who had printed books (still members) about a possible style change and their thoughts. At least we would know numbers. An email had been sent round; replies forwarded to committee for note of actual responses. Appears 99% in favour of looking into a folder, some happy to pay towards the folder - others to provide their own. A few happy to switch to PDF if it helps. Positive response so far, Alan to follow up at printers (we need further supply of Rally Envelopes) to see samples. Overwhelming response a printed book is still wanted. Other ideas discussed, work in progress.

Has also contacted other Rally Sec's in Anglia Region - one reply so far, programme being worked on and will be in touch.

The Seasonal Launch was discussed (Natter & Chatter). Agreed had gone well but to look at linking to a rally again for 2025. To be followed up.

**Item 11. Publicity** - The leaflets have been handed out to Sharman Caravans, Farnham Leisure, Marquis and Homestead Caravans. Ron requested some leaflets be handed out at ClubFest - agreed. Trevor offered to look at putting together a flyer to show the value of Centre rallies and to gain new volunteers.

**Item 12. Rally Equipment** - Only item of equipment that needs to be looked are several urns. If we are unable to have them to correct standard, we may have to dispose of them. Paul checking on this.

**Item 13. Webmaster** - Few updates to do.

**Item 14. Newsletter** - Nothing at present. Diane is looking for more content from members - articles to be requested where possible.

**Item 15. Regional Meeting** -.Ron (Regional Rep) gave report from recent meeting.

The meeting was held by Zoom with Paul Maran, Regional Chairman opening the meeting.

The main point that came out of the meeting, was that Mid Anglia Chairman Sean Cundall had stood down from the position of Chairman, due personal reasons. Following consultation with Caravan and Motorhome Club Governance Office, the committee co-opted Lee Allgood to act as Chairman and will also continue in his post as Centre Treasurer. He will hold both positions until the AGM in October.

Garry Pyett, Treasurer for Anglia Region stated that they had about £7000 in the bank. Greg Potter, CAMC Vice Chairman, did suggest that the Region ought to be spending some of the money, or they could lose the annual grant.

North and South Essex Chairmen both stated that their members who came to the Easter Invitation Rally run by Suffolk Centre, really enjoyed themselves and thanked all the hard work that went into running it. North Essex Chairman, Kevin Lowrie, who attended the rally, offered to hand a rally slip in right away and hoping it would go ahead next year.

It was discussed whether people taking on a "Champion Role" within the Region, would be jeopardising their position on Centre Committees. Greg Potter replied that only four people who could not serve on centre committees, was the officers of the Region.

GDPR was also talked about, and it was thought people are applying their own interpretation of the rules, causing problems and not using it as it was designed for.

I also asked the question about what photographic information can be published from rallies and events. Norfolk Centre has a disclaimer on their Web Page, stating that all information can be published.

I mentioned as a committee, we decided not to do a reprint of this year's rally book, after the misprint of the original copy. We would be looking at options for next year.

Next Regional meeting due in September 2024.

#### **Item 16. Other Committee / Any Other Business -**

We need further supply of Rally envelopes. Alan to take to printers when following up on rally book. Updates to details also looked at. Julian requested some for the Bank Holiday Rally.

Ron would like to know at the June meeting if anyone has thoughts on next year's committee - so not leaving us short of time looking for new committee members. This October will see the end of his 3 years as Centre Chairman.

Next meeting Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June via Teams. Meeting to start at 7.30 p.m. The next meeting will then be July 10<sup>th</sup> also by Teams. No meeting in August.

Janet advised that both her and Alan will not be back from holiday in time for the scheduled meeting in September.

Meeting closed at 21.52.

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