

THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024
BOWLS CLUB, IPSWICH (Alternative Venue)

Meeting opened at 7.40 p.m.

Ron King expressed his thanks for those attending this evening considering, in football season, there was an important match tonight for the England team.

It was duly noted, as the meeting finished, that in fact England was now into the next round - the Final.

Those taking part in the committee meeting were:

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

Item 1. Apologies for Absence - Chris Stammers.

Item 2. Corrections to Previous Minutes - None noted.

Item 3. Signing of Previous Minutes - June 2024 minutes were agreed and signed by Ron King (Chairman). Due to previous meetings by Teams, previous agreed minutes were signed to be put into Centre records.

Item 4. Matters Arising on minutes from last Meeting - None noted.

Item 5. Chairmans Report - I was involved in running the Mid-June Rally at Bromeswell from 14th to 18th June 2024. Although the numbers were down a bit from last year, we still managed to attract twenty-three units, including three visitors from other centres.

From Bromeswell, Denise and I joined up with South Essex Centre, for their invitation rally "We're going back to Wilmcote" near Stratford upon Avon, which ran from 20th to 25th June 2024. One other couple from Suffolk Centre, who came along, was Mick and Sue Currie.

We left the rally on the 25th of June and made our way to Tavistock and then on to Devizes for the next twelve days inclusive, taking in National Trust and English Heritage sites, before eventually coming home.

I will be stepping down from the role of Chairman for Suffolk Centre after three years in October. Where has the time gone?

I am very worried, that I could be the last Chairman of Suffolk Centre. There seems to be an apathy toward our Centre. Lack of rallies being run by our members. People not supporting what rallies are out there and people not coming forward to be involved with the Committee.

As the old saying goes: "USE IT OR LOSE IT!!"

Ron was sorry his report was worded as such but did feel that members were not taking seriously the Centre situation or there was apathy out there.

Item 6. Vice Chairman's Report - Julian had chaired two rallies.

Bromeswell attended by 22 units with visitors from Yorkshire Dales and Mid-Anglia. One unit cancelled at short notice.

Leiston attended by 20 units with visitors from North Essex and a wedding anniversary celebrated during the rally.

Both rallies fell victim to the weather with everyone enjoying and making the most of the sunny spells between the rather heavy showers. Perhaps we should start investing in centre umbrellas for future rallies.

Item 7. Other Rally Reports - To email Mark/Rachel Gowers re France if report.

Item 8. Treasurers Report - Will reported that all outstanding Advert invoices had now been paid. The accounts were up to date, last years to be signed off and sent to the Club, committee agreement. Grant should be received once the Club has them.

Still to follow up on Past Chairman badges. Janet to contact Mid-Anglia Secretary to ask supplier as issues contacting our previous one.

Some issues over a long-standing deposit made on a rally venue, rolled over each year. This to be written off.

Paul Wade still has some paperwork in his possession, to try to obtain this.

Item 9. Secretary Report:

9.1. Membership - Janet reported that on Friday 5th July 2024, there were 1,100 members.

May renewals going void totalled 78. Outstanding for June renewals is 75.

9.2. Correspondence received: None received.

9.3. Attendance - Updating as comes in. List of those attending the recent rally in France given to Janet to update the Attendance database.

It was discussed what we could actually do if committee requested this payment, and it wasn't made. Possible to withhold any book (post or PDF), remove link to Facebook, if no reason forthcoming to committee.

Two late cancellations on Leiston discussed, agreed circumstances allowed it to be waived on this occasion.

Any change to wording in handbook has to go through members at the AGM via a Motion being put forward. Any Motion has to be received no later than 35 days before the meeting and proposed and seconded by two members.

Item 10. Rally Secretary Report: List of rallies currently in sent round committee.

Details of printing books or switching to folders given to committee.

Advertisers emailed. Several promising responses. One who hadn't advertised in several years was approached again - would not advertise in a folder, no commitment if would advertise in a standard book either.

Alan asked about a date/venue for the AGM in 2025. Ron King to approach Trinity Park.

Ron advised that the Easter rally is still a proposal, but if confirmed he would like this to be an all-invitation rally again.

Do we need at Natter & Chatter/Seasonal Launch. Alan to follow up possibility of putting back to running alongside a rally - a couple were discussed.

Now we have figures re handbook for 2025, along with member opinions, the handbook was discussed. Still need to finalise a couple of questions before committing to either the same style book or moving to a folder. Janet to check figures and let committee know where we are now. Should we be looking at going paperless (apart from a printed rally list) - was there a difference in Centre grant if we did so? Janet to look at Guidance to Centres. Could we put together a PDF (complete with adverts) ourselves - printers in the past have helped so that everything is 100% to print.

Alan to look at booking a couple of venues and approach members to act as Marshals, with assistance.

Risk Assessments are a requirement now by the Club - they have always been there but not enforced. Some concern was raised about them - agreed Janet to put together a Standard Assessment, check with each marshal about anything specific to their rally to add - e.g. unfenced pond on site, access - which could be used each year.

Item 11. Publicity - The posters previously provided could go on social media and the website, also be passed to Chris to update the regional website. What does Centre guidance say about social media - what specific information, if any, Janet to email committee with the information.

To look at having Events listed on FB so another way members can be aware.

Item 12. Rally Equipment - Paul advised that the electric urns had now been PAT tested. He had to sort out the rest of the equipment for the Cliff Top, Thorpeness rally.

Ron King advised he had tried contacting the suppliers of the flag as the bags provided are flimsy and have got damaged. The length of the longest pole determines size needed; Julian offered to follow up to find more suitable bags.

Some amendments over equipment passing on between marshals has to be made..

Item 13. Webmaster - Nothing to report.

Item 14. Newsletter - Another issue to be put together. Diane asked for various information to be passed to her, draft copy before the next meeting.

Item 15. Regional Meeting -.Next one due in September via Teams.

Item 16. Other Committee / Any Other Business -

Diane & Paul sadly advised that a past Centre member, Tracy Chipperfield, had recently passed away.

Janet advised that any nominations for committee have to be with her, and checked, by noon Sunday 29th September for the 2025 committee.

Best wishes were expressed to Ron for Denise King who has recently undergo surgery. Ron will be making amendments to rallies he was going to attend and thanked committee for their understanding.

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 - 11th @ Hintlesham. It was agreed to change this date to Thursday 19th September - Janet to contact Hintlesham.
Venue is booked for the October meeting prior to AGM - 2nd October.

Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

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