

THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024
VENUE: HINTLESHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Meeting opened at 7.35 p.m.

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
Regional Rep	Chris Stammers

Item 1. Apologies for Absence - Trevor Smith (Publicity)

Item 2. Corrections to Previous Minutes - None given.

Item 3. Signing of Previous Minutes - July 2024 minutes agreed and signed for the records by Ron King, Chairman.

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

Item 5. Chairmans Report - July was a quiet month as regards to attending rallies. I wasn't able to carry out the role of Chairman on rallies, due to Denise having an operation to replace her knee.

August did see us getting out on to rallies again, although Denise found it quite hard to manage.

As a couple we managed to cover John Meyrick rallies, but Denise couldn't make the 'Down at the Track' rally at Newmarket due to the discomfort she was experiencing, so I went on my own. Once again, another rally we had to cancel was 'A Longer Return to Nowhere', at Lessingham, due to hospital appointments. As Garry and Connie Pyett was attending the rallies I was supposed to chair I asked them if they didn't mind acting as Rally Chairman. They kindly obliged and I thank them and appreciate what they have done for me and the Centre.

At the Newmarket rally I had the pleasure of presenting Dave and Cath Otto with their 45th Rally Plaque. Also, Ashley and Kerry Malpas received their 50th Rally Plaque. It was their 25th wedding anniversary over the weekend. Jill Wilson was presented with her first Rally Plaque, although it was her second rally. There was supply issues on her first rally.

At the 'Return to Woolverstone' rally, we welcomed two new families who have joined Suffolk Centre. Adrian and Terressa Timms and Trevor and Kaley with young daughter Lucinda. Also, 'On the Water' rally at Alton Water another first Rally Plaque was presented to Nick Watkins, who is a keen fisherman.

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, I and Denise attended the North Essex Centre Invitation rally at Malden, Essex. It was the 'Chairmans Lady Charity Event' in aid of their chosen charity 'Little Lifts' supporting people with breast cancer.

Finally, I chaired 'Back at the Suffolk Punch' at the Suffolk Punch Trust, Hollesley. I would like to thank our Vice Chairman, Julian Fincham-Jacques for stepping aside, to allow me to chair the rally. Again, this rally attracted two more new families to Suffolk Centre. Keith and Nicola Jenkins and Martin and Helen Scothern who received their First Rally plaque. On the rally there was families from West Surrey and West Sussex who are holidaying in Suffolk. When they leave Hollesley they are joining Suffolk Centre again at Henham Steam rally a few days later.

Item 6. Vice Chairman's Report - Julian had attended the Cliff Top Thorpeness rally and updated committee on how the rally went. Looking ahead for 2025 as yet the rally hasn't been put forward for inclusion in the programme - if so, some aspects need to be looked at to help the marshals and inform members. Julian has offered to work alongside the rally if it is included.

Item 7. Other Rally Reports -

Reports received from Garry Pyett:

Rally report for 80th D-Day Anniversary at Clopton rally 12th - 14th July 2024.

Back at Clopton for a fun filled weekend, met by private Godfrey in home guard uniform and garden rake for a weapon, who eventually allowed us into the camp for the weekend.

All the marshals had got into the spirit with Captain Mannerling and the land army girls.

A bit disappointing that only half the rally consisted of Suffolk centre members, and 1 Beds Centre member, and Trevor then had to open it up to caravan club members within his Poshcat Camping friends to keep it viable, but it still turned into a really good rally.

The weather turned really warm over the weekend, giving us chance to sit outside the van, and later meet up in the hall for refreshments and a good old fashioned chin wag on Friday Night. The entertainment, "Sarah Mai" in 40's style and singing songs from the time was brilliant on Saturday night, most people dressed up in 40's clothing, including a visit from Winston Churchill and it was a very enjoyable evening. I was very pleased to be asked to chair the rally, as Denise had only just come out of hospital.

Thanks Trevor & Sue and Joe & Sheila, with all your helpers over the weekend, a very enjoyable inexpensive rally, with Poshcats Camping again supporting the entertainment, Thanks again.

Rally report for Clare Priory rally 19th - 22nd July 2024

We arrived from the SECC rally in Essex to about 28 degrees, turning out to be like that most of the weekend, standing in for Ron as Denise was still partly immobile, Julian & Jerry had managed to get about 17 vans in the ever decreasing space available due to trees maturing, I can remember going there in 1997, and I sited about 30 vans, but it is very relaxing venue.

Father David who is has much knowledge of the priory, gave us a good tour of the church, grounds and priory on Saturday, many members went into Clare for the market, cafes & coffee shops, we had visitors from North Essex and East Yorkshire, and I was pleased to welcome a set of 1st ralliers to the centre.

Thanks Julian, Donna & Sarah, and Jerry & Heather for a welcome and lovely venue.

Item 8. Treasurers Report -

Year-end/VAT returns

Everything up to date and 'clean' (tidiest they've ever been)

1. Invoices for adverts from Farnham Leisure, Sunshine Solar and The Caravan Cleaner collected.
2. Woolverstone £50 sorted
3. Q3 VAT return (the busy quarter) nearly done.
4. I'm going to ask Paul Wade to pay me the £20.51 in petty cash to clear that balance.
5. Only remaining 'oddball' item is £120 for a Past Chairman's Badge for Gary Pyett which isn't needed.

@ Janet, nearer the time, I'll need to know how much postage you have on account as at 31/12/24.

Rallies

All returns received and processed.

I learnt from Thorpeness 2023 and worked closely with Julie to reconcile bookings and expense receipts - spreadsheet controlled as we went along so time was saved.

I managed to persuade Ipswich School to offset the old Woolverstone £50 deposit against the invoice for 2024

Note: Thorpeness bought Burco boilers and teapots (circa £413 excluding VAT). *This was received with surprise from committee as the Centre already holds both gas and electric urns/with teapots, for rallies to use. Expenditure thought unnecessary.*

Other

1. 2023 Accounts signed by Auditors; Grant released by CAMC.
2. We did talk about simplifying the Rally Return to avoid putting off Marshalls - thoughts and advice welcome.
3. You may recall I moved £20k into a HSBC deposit account - to gain interest and mitigate fraud risk. Current Balance £12,200 after paying Thorpeness costs. Interest received (March to 10/05/24) £210.21.
4. Rally Book adverts: we offer a 10% discount if paid by 31st January. Not sure of the history? 10% is greater than companies offer for early settlement. It also complicates VAT. Can we abandon the practice? *Alan advised this was something done as we got back going again after the pandemic. Many of our supporters were long-standing and it was some way to help on both sides. Normal prices will resume for 2025.*

As previously indicated at an earlier Committee, I've now got things running smoothly so willing to continue as Treasurer.

Item 9. Secretary Report:

9.1. Membership - Janet reported that on Friday 13th September 2024, there were 1,098 members. Renewals going void for July were 92. Anticipated renewals for August are 74, some indicated what they intend to do already.

9.2. Correspondence received: Rally marshal information on recent events.

Correspondence received over some rallies/dogs/attendance. This was discussed and to be followed up. If necessary to be brought up at AGM.

Janet pointed out that nominations close on 29th September, 2 held at present for Secretary and Committee. Will to put in nomination for Treasurer. As yet no Chairman, Vice Chairman or other committee. Details held of possible move to hibernation/amalgamation - we will know more shortly.

9.3. Attendance - Updating as comes in. Default list discussed. A couple to follow up on.

Item 10. Rally Secretary Report: Alan had sent round the latest rally programme list. Asked that this was accepted to date, that the 4Bs could be accepted, and that other Centre invitations also accepted. *Agreed all invitations and 4Bs to be accepted.*

Printing of handbook - members were asked about changing style of books. Current list obtained shows: 70 have never replied, 918 would get PDF email, rest either would supply own folder, happy to go along with decision, not interested (pending leaving), 158 under Post list (these include the never replied, supply own folder etc). Do we stay with bound copy or still look at folders? Draft of book underway whatever the outcome. Work in progress until the programme details come through. *Final decision made that if 2025 book goes ahead this will be via a folder style.*

Advertisers some agreed to return again. Full list at October meeting.

Alan advised that the Easter rally was a Regional Invitation - some have accepted. Possible marshals for Dans Meadow, no-one as yet for Crowfield.

Item 11. Publicity - No report from Trevor.

Item 12. Rally Equipment - Paul had nothing to report. He would arrange to get an electric urn to Ron King for the AGM rally.

Item 13. Webmaster - Julian advised a few updates to do

Item 14. Newsletter - Further edition not planned at present.

Item 15. Regional Meeting -.

REGIONAL MEETING 4TH SEPTEMBER

Ron King and Chris Stammers joined the meeting via Zoom hosted by Paul Maran, Regional Chairman.

The main points taken from the meeting are as follows.

The Regional tent has been taken by South Essex to be used with a youth group.

Rob Rice, representative from North Essex, gave a presentation on Google Blogger, a sort of digital magazine. Looked very interesting.

I asked on behalf of our Secretary, Janet Dobson, in that the club system is not giving enough information on ticking the centre membership box to allow members to realise what they are doing. I read out word for word what Janet asked. As before when the question was asked previously, the same answer was that it generates income for the centre, with the grant every year. So, need to look at the bigger picture to membership.

It was suggested that Rally Secretaries get together at a regional event, basically to try and organise events that would get the whole region going to one event.

The first Committee Meeting and Forum in 2025 is to take place Saturday 11th January at the Holiday Inn, Impington.

There was confusion over the wording in the document that has been issued when the Anglia Region becomes a Division after the AGM in October. As Greg Potter, Vice Chairman CAMC

was not at the meeting, it was decided to have another meeting, where Greg could explain things better to our understanding.

The next Meeting took place on 17th September 2024, also via Zoom. Greg Potter, Regional Committee and Centre Chairmen were in attendance.

Some points that came from the meeting.

Changing the role of Officers to a three-year term in the role they do on the committee. Media Champion is to become an elected role to work on the new committee. If elected to that role, they cannot serve on local centre committee. Centres to advertise this new position.

When the new Division is formed, there will be only one representative from each centre instead of two. This is a cost cutting exercise on mileage costs, as some regions have to travel many miles in face-to-face meetings. It would be preferred that the Centre Chair does this role, but not compulsory.

Greg also said that the Division is for all Club members within their areas. It's up to the committee to get the information to members. He said 'Our role is to represent all club members, not just centre members.

At the meeting it was brought to our attention at the last ClubFest, the Club was not happy with the low turnout of Regional and Centre Chairpersons. It was said, that when you take on these roles, part of your duty is to attend national gatherings. Greg did state, that because it was an official Club Function, expenses could be claimed. Site Fees and mileage, but it would have to come out centre funds

I'm not too sure if this was a quip remark by him. Don't know what our membership would make of this. Would be a lot of money. £400 Site Fee plus 500 miles return trip to the next ClubFest.

Janet stated that she wasn't surprised by the response - from conversations at Club level they are aware that the system isn't the best.

Query over conflicting information re Region/Centre AGM and who can stand for what roles. Club paperwork shows Centre committee cannot serve on Region at same time, some been told otherwise. We need to be 100% clear on this.

Item 16. Other Committee / Any Other Business - Ron advised that Will & Penny Thursday will be attending AGM rally as Tellers.

Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Next meeting at Hintlesham Wednesday 2nd October at 7.30 p.m.

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