

THE CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB - SUFFOLK CENTRE
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025
BY TEAMS

Meeting opened at 19.35 p.m.

Those taking part in the committee meeting were:

Chairman	Ron King
Secretary	Janet Dobson
Treasurer	Will James
Rally Secretary	Alan Dobson
Publicity	Dave Sanders
Centre Equipment	Denise King
Media	Chris Stammers
Committee	Martin Combes

Item 1. Apologies for Absence – Julian (Vice Chair/Webmaster) will put together link for meeting but was unable to attend himself. Thanks passed to Julian.

Item 2. Corrections to Previous Minutes – None noted.

Item 3. Signing of Previous Minutes – April minutes agreed and signed by Ron King, Chairman. Copy to be passed to Janet Dobson, Secretary, for filing.

Item 4. Matters Arising on minutes from last Meeting – Agreed to order the QR Code cards. Janet to check first cost of 500 and then order appropriately.

Item 5. Chairmans Report – The Centre hosted two rallies in April. The first was over the Easter Weekend, held at Trinity Park, Ipswich. The event was well attended, not so much by Suffolk Centre members, who made up approximately 50% including marshals. The remaining people came from different parts of the country. A total of 55 units attended and I would like to thank all those who came along and made it a great success. Over the weekend the marshal team worked very hard in the different roles they played in making it a successful rally weekend. Also Fund Raising, in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance, with different activities raising a grand total of £523.06 for our designated charity.

The following weekend I chaired A Stroll along the Prom rally, held at Peewit Caravan Park, Felixstowe. The rally was well attended and thank you to the marshals for supplying some of the cheese and wine at their own expense on Saturday night.

Item 6. Vice Chairmans Report – Report from Julian - Attended and chaired the Easter Rally at Trinity Park marshalled by Ron & Denise King, Janet & Alan Dobson, Mark & Debra Terry and Chris Stammers, Amy Hindle and Lily.

Yet again another excellent weekend of food & entertainment, this year saw Trinity Park hosting other events that were sited close to the rally which gave the team added stress.

Also attended Peewit being run by Karen & Tony Reed and Janet & Alan Dobson. Another excellent weekend assisted by wall-to-wall sunshine. The marshals laid on cheese & wine Saturday evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by all those attending.

Item 7. Other Rally Reports – None.

Item 8. Treasurers Report – Reported by Will James -

1. Easter and Peewit rallies reconciled, and Trinity Park have been paid.
2. One more receipt for Thorpeness, Tina Holmes refunded. @ Julian: need Mark Gowers contact or bank account details for his refund. *Janet to pass email to Will.*
3. Productive phone call re recent VAT error. All now sorted and account reconciled.
4. CAMC Annual Grant £1,600 received.
5. Rally Book' Advert, Caravan Cleaner still has not paid. *Will to follow up again.*
6. Dates have been suggested but not yet agreed for Area Treasurers to meet re possible flat rate grant. Paul advises could be July 30th or Sept 3rd (he is waiting for replies from some Treasurers).

Visited a couple of Club sites recently (Cromer and Henley), both busy.

Item 9. Secretary Report:

9.1. Membership – Janet reported that on Friday 9th May there were 1,053 members. For March renewals we had 63 non-renewals.

9.2. Correspondence received: Janet passed round a couple of documents provided via Box from the Club. Quarterly statement on this collection of information on rallies etc., across the Centres. Secondly some documents giving a box exercise as to Secretary and Rally Secretary roles.

From looking at them Janet commented: Secretary one states monthly reminding members that membership due for renewal – somewhat puzzled as has been told, in person, that the Club does not expect Centres to go “chasing up” their members. Change of approach on this one when?

The Rally Secretary one is fine if this Centre actually followed the process where the Rally Secretary was in control of the way the programme went together – Suffolk Centre has always been marshal led. Would question if with the ongoing investigation/intervention in Centres working practices, the Club/Divisions expect Centres to all act in the same way.

Ron brought up re contacting members when sending reminders membership due/non renewal notice from Club and it would appear these are not welcomed by some members. Janet to forward what type of message is actually sent out and from today no further messages will be sent. Janet did say that she had not received any comments or complaints on emails received, some members do reply that information is incorrect as they show Club membership cards, and many message back in thanks for the reminder. Should members request no information this is clearly held on the database. To advise via FB and website no further emails will be sent out.

A query had been received re Admin Fee and rally plaques. The Admin Fee allows for the purchase of plaques but should marshal/ralliers not wish to order then they can do so, the Admin Fee of £2 is still to be requested.

9.3. Attendance – Replies received from the other Centre invite rallies in our programme and the Attendance Register is up to date.

Item 10. Rally Secretary Report: Nothing changed in rally programme – 2 rallies listed. Do we look at organising a date for the AGM 2026? *Alan to pencil in appropriate date for the AGM which will need venue and rally marshals.*

Need to look at new ideas/ways of working and to enforce the contracts with landowners when rallies are booked in. Ron has copy of Henham Steam Rally contract which he will forward to Alan for filing.

Item 11. Publicity – Dave reported that he is working with Julian in downloading photos taken for the website. Chris suggested working with him to produce a type of use it or lose it approach, nostalgia route, and to try to find members to act as marshals. Janet to forward contact details for Club Magazine to Dave so articles can be sent up to them.

Item 12. Rally Equipment – 3 events shelters and an urn booked for the Weeley Rally. Event shelter booked out for the Newmarket Rally. Rest up to date. Ron queried whether another pole had been sorted for the spare flag he has – to follow up with Julian.

Item 13. Webmaster – Report from Julian. Have updates outstanding for meeting minutes that should be completed next week along with amendments to the timings of the Bromwell & Hollesley rallies due to them being shortened after council objections.

Item 14. Newsletter – To hold to next meeting but one suggestion is putting together a Nostalgia Edition and asking members for stories/photos would be a good idea. Something different to interest members.

Item 15. Anglia Division Report (Ron King, Representative) –

Anglia Division of the Caravan and Motorhome Club held a meeting via zoom on 30th April 2025 at 19.30. Paul Maran, Divisional Chairman opened the meeting. He stated he attended the Club Council meeting at the Motor Museum in late January. Will Thursby, Deputy Chair had previously approached me about running The Question Time and Rally at the Suffolk Punch Trust, Hollesley next April 2026 on behalf of the Division. Also, Garry Pyett to run the rally.

Garry Pyett, Treasurer said nothing much to report and that everything was up to date. He had visited a couple of Club Sites, and they were busy. Jasmine Kent, Administrator mentioned that all area treasurers are to meet, to discuss a flat rate grant. John Lars and Edward Baker will join the meeting. She also stated that the renewal of centre membership is not automatic. Norfolk Centre Chairman, Graham Sewall said the Natter and Chatter had low attendance. Easter rally saw only eight vans, including marshals. Problems with the website, not running properly.

Suffolk Centre Chairman, Ron King read out a prepared statement. He informed the meeting he and his wife, along with other Suffolk Centre members attended Mid Anglia's Pre-Season Dinner at Peterborough. Also informed the Centre had its Natter and Chatter and had a reasonable turnout and presented East Anglian Air Ambulance representative with a cheque

for £1694.82. The Centre had quite a good response from the Divisional centres who supported the Easter rally at Trinity Park, helping to raise over £500 for EAAA.

Mid Anglia Chairman, Lee Allgood also said that Carsington and Stradsett rallies were well attended. They now have a public page now, as well as a member's page on Facebook.

South Essex Chairman, Dave Mills said the Dinner Dance was well attended, also a couple of Suffolk Centre members went to the event. He said he was coming to the end of his term as Chairman of South Essex Centre. The Centre will be hosting the Divisional AGM in 2026, venue to be found.

Digital Champion, Chris Stammers busy collating the web sites within the Division.

Greg Potter, Vice Chairman CAMC mentioned that it was a good Club Council Meeting. ClubFest in final stages of readiness. Also, the Club was looking at what the Club will look like in ten years' time. ClubFest. On the Saturday morning bacon rolls will be served between 10-11am to members at the Anglia Division get-together.

It was pointed out that Camp Site Crew is to do patrols, to allow Block marshals some relief from their area. Rebranding of Divisional plaques is to take place and actively looking for a printer. The Division can now run at least one rally in its own right.

Norfolk Centre is organising the Divisional AGM and Rally at Sedgeford Village Hall, Hunstanton, October 16th, 2025. AGM commences Sunday 19th October 2025 at 11.00pm

Next Divisional meeting will be Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Item 16. Other Committee / Any Other Business – Nothing was raised.

Meeting closed at: 21.03 p.m.

Next meeting is due at Hintlesham Village Hall on Wednesday 11th June to commence at 7.30 p.m.

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