

The Caravan and Motorhome Club Suffolk Centre
Minutes of Committee Meeting at Chairmans House
Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Meeting Start 07:30pm

Attendees:

- Paul Fitch
- Diane Fitch
- Ron King
- Julian Fincham-Jacques
- Martin Coombes
- John Meyrick

Item 1: Apologies for Absence:

- Will James

Item 2: Corrections from Previous Minutes

- None

Item 3: Signing of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Signed by Paul Fitch

Item 4: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- Not had a chance to speak to Barry Dye about insuring centre equipment. Paul will look into this now he has returned from holiday.
- Paul to contact Trevor re Carpet bowls mat
- Paul to speak with Chris Stammers to establish what equipment he holds.
- Still need to decide type of equipment we should look into for the club equipment.

Item 5: Chairmans Report (incl. Rons report whilst covering for the Chairman)

- **Rallies Attended:** Paul attended no rallies since last meeting as he has been on holiday for last 6 weeks. Thanks to Ron King for covering chairman duties in his absence. Paul also passed on his thanks to Janet Dobson for helping cover the secretary role in Diane's absence.
- Below are Ron's reports on the two rallies he chaired.

EASTER AT TRINITY PARK 2-6 APRIL 2026 – Ron King

The Easter Rally at Trinity Park, Ipswich attracted 64 units, including the marshals. 23 Suffolk Centre families attended, the remaining numbers made up from visitors from Anglia Division and other centre and non-centre members from across the country. A fun filled weekend was had by all, with a varied programme of quizzes, games, walking, cooked food, including a cheese night and dancing to a disco and live music. Over the course of the rally, the Centre Charity benefited to the tune of **£179.85p** thanks to the support of all the people attending. Last, but not least, a big thank you to the marshals for all their efforts, in, once again making it a successful and enjoyable four days.

OH - I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE 10-12 APRIL 2026 – Ron King

19 units attended Peewit Caravan Park, Felixstowe over a sunny and gentle breeze. One unit rang in on the day to say they were ill and wouldn't be making an appearance.

On Saturday evening, Flag took place in the small communal room, where Suffolk Centre members gave a warm welcome to Simon and Samantha McGuire. They were presented with their First Rally Plaque.

After Flagpole finished, I managed to sell two 2026 Year Pointers.

Item 6: Treasurer Report

- 2026 Rally processing up-to-date (e.g. Q1 VAT). 2026 Thorpeness booking payments up to 10 in 2026 and 60 in 2025 less 2 refunds.
- Rally Book Adverts - Farnham paid, Paul wrote me a cheque on the spot when I dropped in.
- Call with other Anglia Treasurers (23/03/26) covered Treasury (cash) Working Practices, Banking Challenges & Service Charges, Audit, Compliance, & Reporting Practices, Grant Funding & Expense Tracking, Unified Accounting System Initiative, Succession Planning & Treasury Support and Best Practice Sharing & Future Collaboration
- We're going to hold Quarterly calls.
- HSBC mandate (saga) – to cut a long story short. Seems when account was opened many years ago, Suffolk Centre was linked to the wrong legal entity: Caravan and Motorhome Club Limited, which is dormant rather than The Caravan Club Limited (trading as the Caravan and Motorhome Club). This means the new HSBC process links to notional Directors who won't sign – advice from Financial Controller Jon Laws is transactions wouldn't be audited. HSBC won't change their structure.
- Solution is to open a new account under the correct hierarchy. HSBC will allow both accounts to be open (i.e. overlap for 6 months), this will help with if Ralliers pay into the wrong account for AGM Rally. Next steps will be to open the account, create new payees as I settle invoices (e.g. Trinity) and ensure Marshal (Barry) quotes the new account number.
- Committee to discuss the way forward with Will before the next meeting to discuss options.

Item 7: Secretary's Report (as supplied by Janet Dobson)

7.1. Membership

- I covered for Diane for the membership reports, and anything else urgent, while she was away on holiday.
- I was asked to send a condolence card to a member which I did. Purchased some stamps, spare passed to Diane, Will has re-imbursed.
- Each week the reports were done, checked and all members emailed with books and rally slips. There was a nominal report on 28th March where membership stood at 994 members.
- End March members should be due to come through as not renewed early in May. They have been emailed to remind them
- Last report done was Friday 17th April where membership stands at 999. This includes March and April members.

7.2. Correspondence received:

- Two members have requested printed copy of the handbook, details passed to Diane to send out.
- End April members have been emailed reminding them that their renewal due end month and it's not automatic.
- Have had a few replies back, contents of which have been noted on the spread-sheet. Some are not renewing either Club or Centre, one member has since transferred to another Centre.
- Facebook members not renewing – thanks to Julian for his help in this as I had no admin access – have been removed. One new member request has been dealt with.

7.3. Attendance – (Diane's update)

- Governance responded that it was not appropriate to publish Defaulter names in our minutes to try to discourage regular defaulters.

7.4 Other

- Diane expressed her thanks for Janet Dobson keeping on top of the secretary duties while she was on holiday. Diane will collect the drive back later this week.

Item 8: Rally Secretary Report

- We had 3 rallies in the first quarter offering 270 van nights but only 54% were used. This information has been reported to division. We are now offering 816 van nights in the 2nd quarter. Easter was over booked and I believe Peewit was full.
- Cancelled Manor Farm Rally due to low numbers.
- Next Years Rallies
 - Kim and Nigel have booked Hallowtree for 1st weekend October 2027 no form yet.
 - Janet and Allen have booked Peewit for 3rd weekend April 2027 no form yet.
 - Leiston 2nd weekend July 2027 no form yet.
 - Karen and Tony are trying to confirm Newmarket for either 1st or 2nd weekend in August 2027.
 - Diane and Paul are arranging a rally nr Colmar, June/July 2027.
 - With regard to our AGM 2027 I would suggest returning to Trinity Park and when do we want this? I would rather not be the main marshal but would help the correct team.
 - I have been advised that North Essex are running 3 foreign rallies in 2027. June 3 weeks to Ireland, July 2 weeks to French/Swiss border and October half term to Euro Disney. They are open to expressions of interest at this time. Links are available on their website. How do we promote these at this stage as they would like divisional members to have a chance before they are advertised further afield. John will check if these are to be advertised as invitation rallies.
 - Mid Anglia enjoyed Easter at Trinity Park and were already hoping for the invite, that was before the pig racing.
 - Divisional rally secretaries have not had a meeting yet but a What's App group has been set up.

Item 9: Centre Equipment Report

- Marshal Equipment Bag 2. Replaced a damaged marker cone that was damaged at the Easter rally. Replaced 3 wooden pegs, also missing, from the same rally. Updated the stock list held by myself.
- Due to the cancellation of Relaxing at Manor Farm IV rally at Runcton Holme, Marshal Equipment Bag 1, has now been rescheduled. The marshal involved with the rally after Runcton Holme was available and agreed to take the bag.
- **Three Events Shelters and a Gas Urn are out from storage, with the marshals for the Apple Pie and Cider Rally at Weeley 4 - 7 June 2026**

Item 10: Webmaster Report

- Edited version of rally book on website without rally marshal personal details.
- Book online investigation to take place – Julian to talk to other people about how we can progress this forward and make it easier for members to book and pay online. Investigation to be reported at later committee meeting.

Item 11: Division Updates

- No divisional meetings since last update. Only interaction with them was that the quarterly numbers got through to the division for attendance etc.
- Supplied a copy of our Welcome to Suffolk Centre leaflet to Dave Kallarn of the North Essex centre as they are considering putting something similar together

Item 12: Publicity Discussion

- Newsletter is being drafted for the Summer edition and will circulate it to the committee before sending next week hopefully.

Item 13: Any Other Business

Diane to let the club know that Dave Sanders that he has stood down from the committee and for the committee to try and recruit more committee members.

Paul getting a new knee 24th May so rally attendance may be affected for a few weeks

Meeting closed 9:29pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2026 7.30pm via Teams (Julian to send invite)