



North Cheshire Cruising Club
Minutes of the Board meeting
held on Saturday 11 May at 2.30pm
Meeting held at NCCC Club House

Present

Mike Robison – Chairman
Nigel Stanley – Premises Director
Lyndsay Hillman – Bar Director
Dave Hood – Director without Portfolio

Eric Roberts – Land & Water Space Director
Heather Stanley – Company Secretary
Ruth Smith – Treasurer
Pam Russell – Membership Services Director

Apologies

1. **Approval of April 2024 Minutes - Proposed** / **Seconded**
2. **Matters Arising** - None
3. **Approval of Directors Reports (Separate Attachment) Approved by all**
4. **Tasks Completed**
 - **Club and Cottage Purchase** – C&RT have been to the arm and have done their own valuation, just their valuation in writing.
 - **Cutting Trees Down** – Discussion about cutting trees down near NB Portia. We need to enquire about professionals cutting down branches. The area is a conservation area, so we have to put in an application to cut down the trees. If no reply in 6 weeks, we can do it ourselves.
 - **Electrical Work in Workshop** – Adam will be in after his course and Holiday – should be end of May
 - **Sunday Lunches** – It was agreed not to do them during the sailing season
 - **Ladders for Slipway** – A new form has been done that the person on the slipway has to sign re the ladders. This has been completed and will be printed for the Slipway Team
 - **Complaints** – As requested the Complaints and disciplinary forms have been printed, laminated and put on the Secretary's board in the club house. Dave advised that the first complaint has come in through the new system, of which will be kept confidential, until the next meeting where he will advise the meeting. Complaints book to be removed from the kitchen.
5. **Any other Business**

Statement from Mike Robison Chairman reference the brass wheel.

Approximately two months ago, Nigel started asking members that had been members for a long time if the wheel on the cellar door had any history or memorabilia knowledge, as he wanted to remove it to be able to repair the door and paint it. 8 Members were asked regarding it. It was then going to be put into storage.

James from fleur deau expressed an interest in it to Nigel, to purchase it for his boat.

Nigel contacted me to get my views on it as this item appeared to have no historic value to the club and no details were found in the archives about who gave it to the club or placed it on the door in the first place.

The following Sunday lunch at the club

Nigel and I had quite a lengthy conversation with Eric regards the brass wheel explaining the facts, and circumstances and the actions advised by me to Nigel. All of this before any agreement to sell was made. Following the discussion Eric's final comment and I quote was "Yeah, get rid of it". This was not me and Nigel canvassing Eric to allow the sale, it was a process we felt was necessary to go through before agreeing to a request, by a member to purchase it. It was not "sold" to him, he requested the purchase and named the price. Under no circumstances were we gloating or celebrating the sale. We did not rip anyone off as stated by Tim.

I feel no remorse or guilt for the actions taken as we undertook due diligence to ensure we were not disposing of a gift or donated item to the club.

No one had any idea who put the wheel on the cellar door or where it had come from, including Eric,

James from Fleur Deau then contacted Me and he made a firm offer of £150.00 which I accepted, after he had previously had a conversation with Nigel. At no time did either Nigel or I barter with James, he requested the purchase and named the price.

On Friday 19 April, when in the bar at the club house, Nigel and I were discussing the wheel when Ruth and Tim Smith arrived, and I handed Nigel £140 for the said wheel which had been given to me by James late afternoon. Ruth and Tim saw the transactions take place and I said to Ruth 'Are we ok to use the money to put towards the new bar fridge that was required'. Tim then expressed his opinion that he would have auctioned this item off when I said that you would not have received anywhere near the amount that had been offered at auction.

Nigel followed the correct procedure in coming to me with the situation and I am confident in my actions and instructions to him to ensure we performed our due diligence before consideration of the sale, and I accept full responsibility for the subsequent sale.

Tim submitted an item for inclusion on AOB concerning the selling of company property, that was to be discussed at the board meeting on the following Monday night.

Eric brought up the item, and advised the meeting that it had been donated some 50 years previous, despite denying any knowledge in Nigel and I's previous conversation with him, but could not remember who had donated it, and if it was to be removed from the door it would be good on the gallery corridor. He also denied any conversation with Nigel and myself about removing it and selling it.

Tim then interrupted and all the rest followed.

At the end of the statement, Mike advised the meeting that he had spoken with Tim and Ruth prior to the meeting, and this situation had now come to a conclusion and no further conversations would take place concerning the wheel. Mike then handed Ruth an envelope with £140 in cash from donations to the wharf to repay Tim for the wheel.

All agreed

- **Eric Roberts resignation** – Eric has agreed to stay on as long as he gets help, Everyone agreed to assist Eric if they can. Heather has agreed to do the Sumup payments at weekend for Eric (if around), and Nigel and Mike will help out on the arm with ancillary items. It was agreed to put an email out to members advising that the sale of diesel, coal and sundry items will be dispensed on a Thursday (ie when all the slipway team is on the arm), and a Saturday when Nigel may be on the arm, or by prior arrangement only.

- **Vice Commodore (Heth)** – Do we invite Chris Potter to the board or wait until the AGM. After a discussion, it was agreed that we will leave Chris as Vice Commodore until the AGM, but will all give him assistance with the up and coming events.
- **Wharf Superintendent (Heth)** – do we actually need this position. The agreement was yes. Mike and Eric to have a chat to see who they can find to take this position over. Needs to be someone who is available during the week to assist Eric.
- **Commodores Handover (Mike) / Commodores fund and report, windlass from Guy Holding, cellar safe key. Where are they. Money will need to be available to pay for Laying up Supper and act. (Pam)**

Mike requested that the Commodores handover be done within the next two weeks. Ruth advised the meeting that there was a small float of about £40, and the balance of the Commodores fund was in the main account, as they could not open a separate account. Ruth also handed over the safe key and windlass. Ruth will also look into another card for purchases. The windlass and the float are in the safe.

- **Membership for Approval (Pam)** – an associate member request has come in from Susan P Lawton – this has been approved and seconded by Mike and Eric – the board all approved the request.
- **Accident book (Ruth)** – Ruth enquired where the accident book was, as the weed killer system had leaked whilst Tim was using it and it had spilt over his back whilst he was carrying it. Pam advised that there was one upstairs, and that there was also one in the workshop, which Ruth could enter the details into.

For Discussion at a future meeting

- Membership prices – further discussion to take place at a future meeting - 3 tier system:
 - a. Moorer's
 - b. Active Members
 - c. Non-Active Members
- Setting up a Trust – ALL (Notes from HR Trust to run alongside the limited company - 3 trustees required (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer), and need to write a constitution. HR has offered her knowledge and services to help with this and administer future funding bids if the board agrees to go ahead with it. Applying for funding is quite complex until you understand individual funders requirements. Board members can apply for one of the position above, but cannot take the same role that currently do on the board. It was suggested that we put it out to the membership, and ask members to come forward to the board with reasons why they would be good for that position. Further discussion needed.

6. Date of Next meeting

Monday 17 June 2024 – 7.30pm via google talk

Minutes Approved Mike Robison Chairman on 14 May by email.