

Minutes of Sellindge Sports and Social Club Annual General Meeting

Monday 24th March 2014 – 8.00pm

1) Welcome & Opening Remarks

David opened the meeting by thanking all for attending. He distributed the minutes of last year's meeting, asking everyone to read them before continuing.

2) Committee Attendance & Apologies

In Attendance

David Crumley (Chairman)	John Collins (Treasurer)	George Oakley (Vice Chairman)
Ian Birch	Dave Motley (Secretary)	Christina Sandy (Trustee)

Apologies

Sarah-Jane Sandy	Margaret Birch (Trustee)	Jenny Hollingsbee (President)
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Guest

Michael Barnes

3) Minutes of previous AGM

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Christina and seconded by David.

4) Matters arising from the Minutes

David reported, as per his action, he had contacted David Fifield to have a standard contract for 'Usage by Clubs' drawn up.

5) Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave his report. A summary of the points included are:

- Clubhouse extension and refurbishment – This had not yet been fully signed off following the re-opening of the Clubhouse on 1st May 2011. The Chairman is pleased to report the final certificate for the works undertaken by Coombs, Canterbury Ltd, was issued by Guy Holloway Architects on 26th April, 2013
- Club membership and usage – we are still working hard to increase the usage of the Club and have held a number of notable and well-attended social events over the last year, including:
 - The Great Easter Egg Hunt (3rd April 2013)
 - Bowls Club - Free Coaching sessions (May 2013)
 - Father's Day Fun day (16th June 2013)
 - Quiz Night (20th July 2013) to raise money for the play park

- Holistic & Psychic Fairs on a number of occasions
- Late Summer Fayre (1st Sept 2013), which we hope to run again
- Fireworks display and bonfire (in its third year and now an annual event). This was a huge success despite the weather
- Website – The Club’s website continues to be actively used to promote our facilities, clubs and events. It has now had over 8,000 hits (8,042 as at 23rd March 2014) since its launch in February 2012 and its popularity is increasing with 4,500 hits since this time last year
- Facebook – Our Facebook page, which we launched in January 2013, is also being actively used to advertise everything that goes on at the club. With this, we have increased our reach to many hundreds of people on a regular basis, and occasionally thousands, attracting a total of over 300 “likes” to date (313 as at 23rd March 2014)
- Functions – There have been many functions, parties and classes being booked at the Club, making excellent use of its facilities. Our function room is available for hire at very reasonable rates, so please continue to spread the word
- Membership – As at 23rd March 2014, we had a total of 191 signed up members, not including the Tennis Club, whose forms we are due to receive shortly. This is behind where we were last year, when we had a total of 292 members. It is believed the drop may in part be due to the fact that we did not run a membership desk on New Year’s Eve last year, which we had done in the two previous years. In view of the current numbers, we do believe the membership desk is something we should reconsider for the future
- Tenants – The main points include:
 - In April last year, we had new tenants join us to run the Club’s bar and catering. Unfortunately, after barely four months in the role, those tenants left to pursue other opportunities in early August 2013.
 - Following their departure, the Club ran the bar directly until late October 2013 when our current tenants, June Ballard and Caroline Pritchard were appointed. Those few months in between tenants (August to October 2013) were a period of some uncertainty and disruption for the Club and as a result of which, a number of our previous plans had to be put on hold. In looking back at that time, our sincere thanks go to our treasurer, John Collins who put in a considerable effort to manage the additional administrative workload during the period between tenancy agreements.
 - Since joining us, June and Carol have organised a number of popular events, including quiz nights, karaoke and live music with a number of different artists. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them continuing success as we look to the future
 - In appointing June and Carol, we agreed to undertake the long-awaited installation of a professional extraction system in the club kitchen. This was completed in early December 2013, providing a solid platform to develop the catering side of the tenancy, which had previously been hampered by the lack of the appropriate equipment (total cost £3,650). This investment had a significant impact on the balance of our current account, which we are now working to strengthen once again (see treasurer’s report)
 - Youth-centred activities at the Club – This includes the following:

- This is a key focus of ours, where I am pleased to report our long-held ambition to establish a youth club has been realised with a Youth Club started in July 2013. It is run by CXK, a Childrens' Charity appointed by KCC to run youth services on their behalf in rural areas of Kent. The Youth Club meets weekly on a Tuesday evening at the Club and is open to anybody aged 11-19 who lives locally. The aim of the club is to provide positive activities and opportunities for young people.
 - In addition, we have been running a number of other youth-centred activities at the Club over the past year, including:
 - Junior Tennis Courses (April 2013)
 - Kids Summer Disco (19th July 2013)
 - Elite Community Coaching Summer Multi-Sport Courses (over the two days 14th / 15th August 2013)
- New Childrens' Playground – Significant progress has been made in establishing the new children's playground, which is now located on the playing fields behind the bowls clubhouse. Two new pieces of equipment have already been installed, with more to come. We are currently in the midst of re-installing our original equipment, which has been refurbished, on this new site
- Other local organisations and charities – we have endeavoured to work alongside and support these over the year. We again worked successfully with the Elham Valley and Wye Lions Club on the Christmas float and together with the Sellindge School Association and Village Hall on bonfire night, as well as on the Sellindge Late Summer Fayre last September. We also continued to work with the Parish Council on last year's Sellindge Garage Safari. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for the funds that were raised from this event towards the upkeep of the Club
- Thanks to – once again we would like to express our sincere thanks to Nigel Fursden for his continued support with the Sellindge Village News over the last year. Thanks also to Anne at Lympne Parish Council for advertising on a monthly basis what's on at the Club in the Lympne Village Newsletter. We would also like to thank Chris Kirkham and the tourist board team in Folkestone for all their support. Thanks also go to the Co-op in Sellindge for the raffle prizes and advertising they have helped us with over the last year. Thanks also to all those other people who have helped the Club, be it volunteering to help run our boot fairs or helping with repairs and maintenance. A special thanks goes to Richard Birch for all the work he has done for the Club over the last year, not least of which has been the free time Richard has devoted to carefully moving and renovating our existing play park equipment
- New Lease - You may recall last year, I mentioned we were in the process of agreeing a new lease with the Trustees of the E. Sedgewick and Sarah Godfrey Charities. There are now only just over 14 years remaining on the term of our original lease of 60 years. The new lease will combine both the original land leased by the Club in 1968 and the new field behind the tennis courts and run for a fresh term of 60 years. It has taken a little longer than anticipated, but the new lease is now almost ready. Many thanks go to the Trustees of the E. Sedgwick and Sarah Godfrey Charities and in particular David Fifield for all his help and advice over the last year
- Sports and Social Clubs - We continue to have a number of thriving sports and social clubs including junior football, bowls, tennis (where we now have a new mixed

doubles team), whist and bingo, but are always open to new activities and ideas to increase the range of activities at the Club

- Committee members - Unfortunately, we have had a number of resignations from the Committee over the last year and as we move forward, a key focus will be on attracting new members to the Committee. We will continue our work towards completing the new children's playground, and increasing membership, so we can ensure our facilities benefit as many people as possible
- Thanks to the Committee members – Last, but not least, a big thank you to all the members of the Committee for all the work they have done over the last year

6) Presentation of Accounts (Treasurer)

John reported 2013 was a difficult year with three changes of tenants, and effectively, no tenants for three months. During these three months we managed the 'finances' of the bar, while the current tenants, June & Carol, ran the bar.

The current account balance at the start of 2013 was £15,008.95, with a closing balance at the end of the year of £2,617.26, a decrease of £12,391.69. The various aspects affecting the Club's finances for 2013 include:

- a. The return of the deposits for the flat & bar to the tenants who departed
- b. No income from the Bar or Flat for 3 months in-between tenants
- c. The purchase and installation of a professional extraction system in the Club kitchen for a total cost of £3,650
- d. A payment of £8,879.68 to Coombs for the balance of refurbishment costs, although there remains a final Architect's, (Guy Salmon), bill of £1,704.90, which is still in dispute
- e. A temporary loan from the Fundraising account of £2,830 to cover costs requiring payment, such as, the remainder of the extraction system costs. Thanks to George.
- f. The Club is still owed rent from Junior Football for the 2013 / 2014 season
- g. Clubs such as Pilates and Streetdance were active in the summer but not currently.

The Club year-end Accounts have been successfully audited.

As a point for the Committee to note, John suggests we need to have the Clubhouse re-valued, as he does not think this has been done since the refurbishment. This is obviously important for Insurance and Accounting purposes.

John clarified the flat is being rented out since January and the bar rental is on a reduced, "introductory" rate for the first period till the end of April.

7) Fundraising Report

George confirmed the main objective of the Fund Raising Group continues to be to raise funds towards the cost of a new play area. The first two pieces of equipment, a basket swing and rota bounce, have now been installed together with the fencing to the rear of the Bowls

Club. Shepway District Council has passed our existing four pieces of equipment fit for re-use and Richard Birch has kindly agreed to install these in the new play area. Our thanks go to Richard for his hard work in ensuring the project moves forward. Also, our thanks go to Richard for the car park extension, which will help greatly during busy times such as Boot Fairs, Bowls/Tennis matches and the Bonfire night.

Also our thanks go to Shepway District Council to agreeing to a Community Chest grant of £1,500 towards the cost of the fencing and to Jenny Hollingsbee for a Ward Budget grant of £750 towards the cost of a further piece of equipment.

Unfortunately fund raising again proved difficult due to the economic climate and the poor weather during spring and early summer.

The Bonfire Night again proved highly successful with a net profit of £4,000 being made on the evening. A special thanks to Nick Hollingsbee for all his hard work in organising this event and to Richard & Ian Birch. The three deserve special thanks for all the work in setting up on the day, which was not easy with the high winds.

The afternoon Boot Fairs continue to be popular with a profit of £4,000 being made over the year. A late Summer Fayre/Flower Show was also held with a profit of £650 being made on the day. The signs for this event were encouraging and we hope to make this bigger and better this year.

A big thank you to all those who helped organise the events and assisted on the day. Without the help of all the volunteers, the events could not take place. Getting enough 'Helpers' is always an issue, with more people often required

The balance of the Fund Raising account currently stands at £6,092, but we still await the agreed Community Chest and Ward Budget grants of £2,250. Also, as covered in Section 6) above, the Club has a temporary loan of £2,830 from the Fundraising account. The current balance, considering all the above, is just under £12,000.

The Play Park still needs a further £25k to finish the work, due to fencing, matting, additional equipment and labour. The original budget was £60k but £10k has been saved with the refurbishment of the old equipment.

The Play Area was to be a priority to progress for use by the kids in the nice weather over summer. Unfortunately, as we all know, the weather has just been so very wet over winter.

8) Election of Committee / Office Bearers

The Chairman asked the Committee members if it was their intention to stay on the Committee in their current roles. All confirmed such. The Chairman asked for any new nominations, which there were none. David explained there was a Committee meeting once a month, and / or people could volunteer to help out at some events. There was still no response. This will need to be addressed as a matter of priority by the Committee by positive advertisements, at little or no cost. David added, the Committee has the power to co-opt up to 5 people on to the Committee throughout the year before the next AGM.

A member of the audience enquired how many Committee Members there are currently. The answer being 8, made up of those present plus Sarah-Jane and Trustee Margaret Birch.

David asked for any comments or suggestions for the Committee with the following responses:

- A suggestion box
- Put names and photos of Committee members up so people know who they are. In this way, if people have any comments they will know who to talk to.

David explained all Committee Members need to be re-elected with the exception of the Treasurer and Secretary, who automatically continue unless they resign or are voted out at an EGM. This was put to the floor, where everyone agreed all the Committee Members are duly re-elected.

9) Motions to be put to the AGM

i. Membership Fee 2015

The Chairman commented the Club membership fee has been kept at £2 for both 2013 and 2014. The Committee's general feeling is this should be increased. This was open for discussion with the following comments/questions:

- The Club needs proper maintenance, and although recently refurbished it will need increased maintenance as the Club gets older
- How much to? Between £3 and £5 was generally accepted
- £5 was suggested as reasonable at this time, compared to other Clubs
- What do people get for their money
- A move to £5 is important Annual Fee for the Club
- Is the person who hires the function hall a member of the Club, with the answer yes
- Do they have to sign-in the others as guests, with the answer yes.
- If the function hall events are regular, then all people need to be paid members, with a contract being drawn up for this eventuality
- There is a legal requirement that to operate as a Benevolent Society Members club, all people who use the Club are members
- Members desk on popular nights to increase membership with appropriate checks
- Signage on the A20/Swan Lane junction, with the highly misleading sign stating 'Monks Horton Sports Club', rather than as intended a sign for Monks Horton and a separate sign for the Sellindge Sports & Social Club. This needs to be addressed.

David asked all to vote for £5 membership for 2015. This was unanimously agreed.

10) Any Other Business

- a) David asked Michael Barnes on behalf of the Swimming Club, in previous years part of Sellindge Sports & Social Club (SSASC), to address the meeting:

- Michael explained he is a life member of SSASC, and associated with the Swimming Club which used to be part of SSASC
- He was heavily involved with the Village and Club back in the 60s, 70s and 80's.
- There was a formal social swimming club held on Monday nights, where a coach used to take members to Hythe Swimming pool
- But as times progressed, the swimming club closed, although it had £200 to £300 left in surplus
- Their treasurer, Malcolm Batchelor, looked after this money, in case the Swimming Club reformed
- This has now accumulated to £900
- Michael explained, he still receives the Sellindge Newsletter, and has been reading about the Playground project. Having checked with all others in the Swimming Club, he would like to present the cheque to the Playground funds.
- George said thank you very much. The £900 will cover the cost of the Sunflower swing. Everyone was extremely grateful to Michael and the rest of the Swimming Club.

11) Closing remarks

David thanked all for coming and their continued support. If you think of anyone who would volunteer to help at the Community events, or would like to be a Committee Member, then please let him know.

The Meeting closed at 8.56 pm.