

Highcliffe Sailing Club

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 23rd November 2017 at 8.00 pm
The Clubhouse

MINUTES

1. The Chairman opened the Meeting at 8.02 pm

Ken Fowler (Vice Commodore) welcomed the members to the 57th AGM. He explained the structure of the meeting, with an informal discussion after the formal AGM, where members would be able to ask questions and put their views. KF introduced the members of the committee to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Doug Croucher, Frank and Andrea Paines, Alan Caswell, David Dixon, Jonathan Parsons, Sue Hunter, David Deininger and Clive Rusden.

3. To appoint two tellers

Two tellers, Richard Waltham and Jim Hemus, were appointed to count all members present. 54 were counted as present including the committee.

4. To receive and approve the Minutes of the 56th AGM

The minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting, held in the Clubhouse on 25th November 2016 were approved. The motion was proposed by Gary Langdown and seconded by Hamish Scott-Dalglish and carried unanimously.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Stephen Waite reported that there had been a surplus of £1,548 this year. Costs continued to be contained and income generated by using a large team of volunteers to carry out maintenance and run events. Ian Pike was now carrying out the duties of the Steward, saving the Club £5k a year.

The loss of the 80% Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) rate relief was a blow to the Club together with the 126% increase in the dinghy park rate valuation, temporarily reduced by transitional relief. The rent was due for review in September 2018 and SW hoped the Council would accept his arguments for no increase.

Championships and related bar and galley income had accounted for nearly all the Club's surpluses over the year, but these were becoming increasingly difficult to run with a declining active membership.

SW explained the accounts to the meeting and there were no questions. The accounts as set out in the Balance Sheet were proposed by Fiona Fowler and seconded by Sally Perry and approved unanimously.

KF thanked SW for all his hard work in preparing the accounts. He also thanked all the volunteers at the Open Meetings who helped to keep the Club afloat. The Balance Sheet would certainly go down without these events being run by the Club.

6. To appoint an Auditor for the Club

Christchurch Accountants was appointed as auditor for the Club. The motion was proposed by Steve Waite, seconded by Pete Bell, and carried unanimously.

7. Commodore's Report

KF explained the background of the report and why Dom Rogers had needed to resign from the post of Commodore; he had needed a complete break to support his family. KF wanted to give a big "thank you" to Ian for sorting the windows etc., to Tania for running the Clubhouse and to David Dixon for keeping the RIBs running. As DR was no longer a Club member KF read his report as follows:

Thank you all for coming to this year's Club's AGM. I am sorry that I cannot be there with you tonight, but I have decided to make the very hard decision to leave the Club to reduce my focus to family, work and the RNLI. I am sure the next Commodore will be a breath of fresh air to the Club with new ideas and a passion to continue to make the Club the success it is. I would like to thank the committee, trustees and members for their support during my two years.

I have been a member of HSC since 2006 and shortly after I joined the committee as a way for me to help and support the Club. In the words of Bigweld from the movie Robots "see a need, fill a need" and I challenge members to not simply wish for things to happen, but to get involved and make it happen. It is most rewarding in many ways.

It has been another busy year at Highcliffe with changes, opportunities, heroic feats and threats. Andy decided that it was time to step away as Steward of the Club and his presence will be missed. Ian Pike has volunteered to step into the role, and we thank him for taking this on and also sorting out our new windows.

You will have been receiving your weekly newsletter which I am sure you will agree has been something to look forward to, with Sarah's, our award-winning Press Secretary's, witty and informative penmanship. Sadly, Sarah has decided to pass the pen over and we are looking for a volunteer to take on the role. I would like to take this opportunity for us to thank Sarah for all her hard work.

Our Bosun David has also had a busy year with managing the maintenance of our ribs. David has also decided to hang up his spanners, and I would like to thank him for his hard work over the past two years.

The Open Event this year was the Phantom and Europe Nationals, and once again a lot of work went into making the event run smoothly, and with a huge effort from our Sailing Committee and Club members volunteering their time, it was a big success, financially and for the Club's reputation. I would like to say a huge thank you to you all.

Earlier in the year Ora Events gave us a presentation of their plans for the land by the slipway, which in the end they decided not to proceed with. Whatever your thoughts, positive or negative about the plans, I am sure it has given us all a pause for thought about the potential for HSC and The Quay in the future.

Ladies that Launch continued and a big thank you to Richard, Margaret and support for another great year. A very popular training session that only ever receives positive feedback with increased bar takings.

We have had some great social events during the year, and thanks go to our Social Team headed by Fiona for organising.

Steve has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to manage the Club status which you will look at shortly. At committee meetings he diligently explained what is going on, recommendations to proceed and goals to be achieved. This has been no small task and I thank him for his time.

I was a joy to watch Ken make his amazing feat of sailing in his Aero from Lands End to John O'Groats. I immensely enjoyed his talk afterwards at the Harbour Hotel and it was heart-warming to see the support he had, a true inspiration to his family, friends and colleagues.

All roles in the Club are filled by volunteers and I have not mentioned them all by name, but I cannot thank them enough for their time and hard work during the year to make the Club a success. The Club is in a good financial position, with a great group of members and volunteers to make the Club run.

8. Proposals

SW explained the three proposals to the meeting. He stated that the cost of Lester Aldridge would be approximately £8,500. A limited audit would still be needed in future years. HMRC should accept that there was no liability on the transfer of assets to the new limited company, and that the tax status, as not for profit, should be unchanged.

The object of the Club was discussed and it was decided to keep the definition as wide as possible as recommended by Lester Aldridge.

i) To form a Company Limited by Guarantee

A resolution was put to the meeting to propose that the Club, which is currently unincorporated, be incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. The motion was proposed by Stephen Waite and seconded by Ken Fowler.

The voting was 54 in favour and 0 against and the motion was carried unanimously.

ii) To approve the Articles of Association for the Club as a Company Limited by Guarantee

The motion was proposed by Stephen Waite and seconded by Ken Fowler.

The voting was 54 in favour and 0 against and the motion was carried unanimously.

III) To amend Standing Order 1 relating to quorums at AGMs

In view of the decline in voting members it was proposed that the quorum at AGMs

be made less onerous by deleting the requirement for 30 members to be a quorum, and leaving the requirement for 10% of the voting membership as of 30 September. The motion was proposed by Clive Rusden and seconded Saron Rusden. The voting was 53 in favour and 1 against. The motion was carried.

9. To elect Flag Officers for 2017/18

The AGM voted in favour of suspending Rule 15.7 and was in favour of a vote by show of hands for items 9, 10 and 11.

The Flag Officers for 2017/18 were nominated as follows:

Commodore – Vacant

Vice Commodore – Vacant

Hon. Treasurer – Steve Waite proposed by Patricia Whiffen and seconded by Phil Moynehan

Rear Commodore House – Tania Tarrant proposed by Patricia Whiffen and seconded by Phil Moynehan

Rear Commodore Sailing – Chris Perry proposed by Peter Emerson and seconded by Ian Pike

Hon. Secretary – Patricia Whiffen proposed by Peter Emerson and seconded by Steve Waite

All the nominations were unanimously approved.

10. To elect Committee Members for 2016/17

The committee members for 2016/17 were nominated as follows:

Sailing Secretary – Paul Anderson proposed by Steve Waite and seconded by Hamish Scott-Dalgleish

Bosun – Jim Hemus proposed by Ian Pike and seconded by Tania Tarrant

Press Officer – Vacant

Social Secretary – Janet Ebbatson proposed by Patricia Whiffen and seconded by Steve Waite

Membership Secretary – Graham Platt proposed by Simon Mussell and seconded by Peter Emerson

Galley Coordinator – Vacant

Committee Post – Vacant

Dinghy Park Warden – Frank Paines proposed by Simon Mussell and seconded by Peter Emerson

All nominations were unanimously approved.

11. Re-election of Trustees

The committee recommended that the present Trustees, namely Trevor Philips and Peter Emerson (proposed by Ken Fowler, seconded by Tania Tarrant) Steve Waite and Ian Pike (proposed by Tania Tarrant and seconded by Ken Fowler) be re-elected as Trustees. All the Trustees were unanimously re-elected.

12. The Vice Commodore closed the meeting at 8.58 pm. KF thanked everyone for coming to the AGM saying that it was a brilliant turnout.