

**The Hertfordshire Centre Caravan & Motorhome Club**

**Minutes of committee meeting held on 23 May 2023**

**Video conference**

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| **Position** | **Members** | **Initials** | **Attended** |
| Chairman / Website Editor | Alan Evans | AE | Yes |
| Treasurer | Vanessa Cannon | VC | Yes |
| Secretary | Jean Hickman  | JH | Yes |
| Rally Secretary | Sandie Evans | SE | Yes |
| Social Secretary | Jenny Vardon | JV | Yes |
| Rally Equipment Officer / Health and Safety Officer | Gordon Pearcy | GP | Yes |
| Public Relations Officer | Michele Gilbert | MG | Yes |
| Attendance Officer | Sue Flood | SF | Yes |
| Audio Equipment Officer | Mick Lucas | ML | Yes |

**MEETING MINUTES**

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|  | **Discussion** | **Action To Be Taken By** | **When** |
| **1.** | **Welcome** |  |  |
| 1.1 | The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members.  |  |  |
| **2.** | **Apologies for absence** |  |  |
| 2.1 | No apologies for absence were received. |  |  |
| **3.** | **Minutes of meetings held on 07 March 2023** |  |  |
| 3.1 | JV advised that she had attended the last meeting. SE noted that Braund was spelt wrong in the secretary’s report. Other than the points raised above, the minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. |  |  |
| **4.** | **Matters arising from previous meetings** |  |  |
| 4.1 | There were no matters arising. |  |  |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s report**  |  |  |
| 5.1 | The Chairman reported that sadly the year had not started as positively as the previous year with regards to the number of people booking onto rallies. Although there had been a lot of visitors, there had not been many Herts members attending rallies. He went onto remind Committee members of the importance of trying to understand why people were not booking onto rallies. As an example, he mentioned that it had been suggested that the rally at Rye had been too far away when you considered the cost of fuel at the current time. The Chairman advised that he had circulated two surveys to try and gain intelligence on where people wanted and did not want to rally. Disappointingly, there had been a poor response to the survey. MG suggested that this could have been due to it not being prominent enough on the website. GP and JH also suggested that not everyone understood where the rally locations were without more detailed information. The Chairman thanked members for their feedback and said he would update the survey and re-circulate it. It was noted that some suggestions of locations for rallies had been received from the survey results and these would be looked into. |  |  |
| 5.2 | SE reported that she and the Chairman were feeling demotivated by the lack of engagement from Centre members and were considering whether it was the right time to let other Centre members have a go at their jobs. Committee members acknowledged the hard work and dedication put in by them both and asked them not to give up their positions. The Chairman commented that it was important to think about the future of the Centre. He expressed his pleasure at having such a strong Committee to support him and did not want Committee members to be disappointed about the part they played in the Centre.  |  |  |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s report** |  |  |
| 6.1 | VC provided her Treasurer’s report. She said that the bank balance at the end of February had been £13,084 and at the end of March £14,308. Expenditure had been £721, with the largest expense being the daffodil rally field. Income had been £1,945, which was rally income for the daffodil festival and deposits for future rallies. |  |  |
| 6.2 | It was noted that the bank balance at the end of March had been £14,308 and at the end of April £14,128. Income had been £2,802, £1,400 of which was the Centre grant and the remainder had been income for rallies and advertising. Expenditure had been £2,982, largely from site fees at Rye and the purchase of four Coleman shelters. |  |  |
| 6.3 | With regard to the 2022/23 accounts, once audited the surplus had been £905. |  |  |
| 6.4 | VC reported that after much debate, four Coleman shelters plus eight sides had been purchased to replace the old party tents. The cost, once the VAT had been reclaimed, was £1,137.It was noted that the Coleman shelters had been seen in use at a Beds Centre rally and VC had copied the guttering system and made four gutters out of plastic dampproof course. This had worked out about £6 per gutter, plus some plastic cable ties to attach them.A question was raised on whether there was a bag that could be utilised for the sides and guttering and AE thought this could be found. Also, whether the Centre had four storm straps. It was noted that the Beds Centre secured their shelters by attaching the storm straps inside the shelter at the top down to the ground, which seemed to work well. It was thought that the Centre did not have storm straps so it was agreed to purchase some.  |  |  |
| 6.5 | SE reported that the gazebo strip lights had gone missing and Committee members advised that they did not have them. ML offered to check in his shed and report back to SE.  |  |  |
| **7.** | **Secretary’s report**  |  |  |
| 7.1 | JH delivered her Secretary’s report. She advised that she had sent a card to Carol Denbigh who had been in hospital and to Margaret Taylor who had been in hospital when she had been on holiday in Spain. JH advised that she would like to send a condolence card to Linda Gillon’s daughter but did not have the postal address. SE said she would provide the address urgently as the funeral would take place that week. | SE | May 23 |
| **8.** | **Rally secretary’s report**  |  |  |
| 8.1 | SE reported the following:Past rallies* The Thriplow Daffodil Festival had gone well, with lots of non-centre members attending. Despite inclement weather, a number of positive comments had been received on how friendly the rally had been.
* The Easter rally at Rye Rugby Club had been well attended. Jo and Scott Longhurst were thanked for stepping in at short notice to assist. As the weather had not been good, a number of ralliers had gone home on the Monday. A furry bunny theme had gone down well causing lots of fun and laughter.
* Stafford Boat Club had 25 booked on and had been a good weekend.
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| 8.2 | Future rallies* The Caribbean weekend had 26 vans booked on. More ralliers would be welcomed to cover the costs.
* Due to lack of response, Berkhamsted Hockey Club and Feldon Lodge rallies had both been cancelled. The Committee agreed that it was sad that Feldon Lodge had been cancelled as this would have been the last rally there as the site had been sold off to build houses.
* A rally at Bateman’s brewery has only two places left.
* The holiday rally and the Christmas party rally was full.
* Alameda School had agreed for the kitchens to be used at the New Year rally at a cost of £25.00 per day.
* The venue for August Bank holiday weekend had been changed to Yarwell Mill and booking were coming in.
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| 8.3 | JH reported that bookings for the New Year rally were coming in well and expressed her sadness to hear that the North London Centre (NLC) had cancelled their New Year rally.  |  |  |
| 8.4 | SE advised that she had confirmed with NLC that the Herts Centre did not wish to jointly run the 2024 Valentine’s rally but were keen to run it alone. NLC agreed and said it could support if required. |  |  |
| 8.5 | SE advised that she had sent out the draft 2024 programme and highlighted the following points:* Aston Village Hall, Stevenage had been booked for a natter and chatter in January. This was a new idea which had been suggested for members to keep in touch over the winter.
* The Rose and Crown at Ridgmount had been booked for St Patricks Day rally. It had 13 spaces, each with electric hook-up.
* A new venue at Royston Village Hall had been booked (19 – 21 April).
* All bank holiday rallies had been booked within sensible distances.
* Nothing had been booked in July as SE was waiting to hear about the possible bookings at Herts Showgroun and a new site.
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| **9.** | **Any Other Business** |  |  |
| 9.1 | VC was thanked for researching and purchasing the Coleman shelters.  |  |  |
| 9.2 | AE asked for all pieces of the old party tents to be sent to him and he would dispose of them. He noted that the old generator worked well, had been recently serviced, but nobody used it anymore. The Committee agreed for this to be sold on e-bay. | AE | By next meeting |
| 9.3 | The Region had been informed that AE was the contact for the Herts Centre, however he would not be attending any further meetings as he believed that they were not focused on rallying.  |  |  |
| 9.4 | MG suggested that the rally form should be amended to include a tick box for ralliers to indicate if they wanted to use a generator. These ralliers could then be sited together as the sound could be irritating for other ralliers.  | AE | By next meeting |
| 9.5 | MG proposed that the Centre sound equipment should be replaced by a good quality Bluetooth speaker, which would be easier and lighter to transport. It was agreed to research what was required. ML agreed to take photos of all the sound equipment so it could be decided which bits were needed to be kept. | ML | By next meeting |
| 9.6 | SF advised that some members were coming up to their 100th rally anniversary. The issue of trophies was discussed and it was confirmed that there was no longer a youth fishing trophy. It was agreed that a new skittles trophy would be dedicated to the memory of Linda Gillon. | SF | By next meeting |
| **10.** | **Close** |  |  |
| 10.1 | The meeting closed at 8.55pm.  |  |  |