



MENDIP FARMERS HUNT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020

Present: Duncan Green (DG) George Pullen (GP)
Tom Ireland (TI) Tim Pullen (TP)
Poppy Martin (PM) Corinne Townend (CT)
Sheila Petherbridge (SP)

Apologies: Roger Lyons (RL)

| | Action |
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| 1.0 MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING | |
| 1.1 No ExCo minutes taken previously. Minutes from previous Committee meeting circulated. To be reviewed at next Committee meeting. | |
| 2.0 OBITUARIES | |
| 2.1 <i>Post meeting note: Pete Watts died of Covid-19 last month.</i> | |
| 3.0 MATTERS ARISING | |
| 3.1 Possibility of joint meet with Weston & Banwell. CT to speak with Toby Lee to encourage meet early in season in order to encourage others to visit and/or subscribe to MFH. | CT |
| 4.0 TREASURER'S REPORT | |
| 4.1 TP laid out current position as per circulated accounts. TI to update accounts to reflect actual position of Supporter's Club, given figures that SP circulated at and prior to meeting. | TI |
| 4.2 Reported that starting off on back foot with cancellation of P2P, Glastonbury Festival and last week of hunting cancelled; equating to loss of £30k. | |
| 4.3 Still owe £21k in loan repayments. TP wrote to all those borrowed from to let them know repayment would not be imminent. No replies. Paid one individual back last year, so down from £23k. | |
| 4.4 TP reported that Robbie Drewett is dealing with possessory title on Bowery Bungalow. He will apply for full title. Will charge nominal fee of £100 + VAT. TP to keep ExCo up to date. Ken Osborne, James Drummond, Rupert Firbank to be removed as Trustees. Brian and Roger to go on to title. DG and SP thought it sensible to get a third Trustee. All to think on possibilities. | TP / ALL |
| 4.5 Discussion over whether £8k in hunt deposit account should be allocated to cover costs. ExCo agreed that we would recommend to the Committee that we use the money to get us through summer. TP to raise at Committee meeting | TP |
| 4.6 TI to give thought as to whether we reduce income from hunt ball within budget from £7k to £5k. | TI |
| 4.7 No income budgeted for livery. TP is positive that we might get a couple of horses which would bring in additional income. | |



- 4.8 Ellie keeps horse at Kennels. SP queried whether she should be paying. TP and GP explained that it is kept as part of her deal. DG emphasised that he felt that we need to keep good staff. Ellie may also help with whipping in when we're stuck.
- 4.9 £5k set aside for new horse. Questioned whether we could afford to spend money on horse at the moment. Decided to leave it for now; possibly until season has started. All agreed. CT to speak with Sarah Gould. TP asked CT to keep eyes open so we don't miss one. CT
- 4.10 Mathew would like Ellie to get going with horses on 1 July ready for mounted hound exercise to start on 1 August.. Farrier booked for 30 June. Discussed and decided that it would be best to give horses week longer to get fit given their ages. Discussed whether season would actually start on time and cost of shoeing horses early, should it not. CT to speak with farrier and warn in case we decide to delay shoeing. To revisit nearer time. CT
- 4.11 £9k spent on hounds last year. Agreed that seemed too much. To keep tabs on Kennels expenditure this season. TP stated that Mathew will ask before spending. Agreed to cut costs as much as possible at Kennels and revisit at Christmas.
- 4.12 Wages were £48k last year. Will be lower this year due to one less employee.
- 4.13 Plan to start season again at end of August. Might have to be in line with COVID-19 regs, e.g. max numbers, cashless payment. Agreed to try and encourage followers to pay in advance by BACS or cheque. All
- 4.14 SP explained that Supporter's Club and Fallen Stock kept the hunt going in past year; especially in previous four months. Donation last year from Hunt Supporter's Club was £37,049 as opposed to the usual £20k. Fallen Stock also gave £10,041 to hunt. SP and GP reported that Fallen Stock usually wipes it's face and would have had to have paid Corporation Tax if it hadn't paid for works to lorry.
- 4.15 Discussed funds that P2P Committee hold; equating to £30k. GP queried whether we request £5k or more. Agreed following discussion that GP would approach ahead of Committee meeting and explain backstory and ask if they would donate £5k (half usual amount) with possibility of requesting further amount if insurance money comes through; possibly £4k . GP to ask Richard Brice to meeting. TP to raise at Committee Meeting GP / TP
- 4.16 Try and encourage riders to pay foot sub and top up with mounted when they can. All to encourage those we see and TP to raise at Committee meeting. ALL / TP
- 5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- 5.1 Nothing to report.
- 6.0 SUBSCRIPTIONS**
- 6.1 TI listed those who had paid subs already. He queried over whether to encourage Vicky to pay later next year so that money is recorded in correct year. DG and SP made ExCo aware that Vicky actually paid her sub early to cover an expense.
- 7.0 HUNT SUPPORTERS' CLUB**
- 7.1 See 4.14.
- 8.0 FUNDRAISING**
- 8.1 DG raised when can we pinpoint start date of fundraising. Queried whether we could encourage fun ride in July. All agreed we should.



- 8.2 DG brought up fact that Vicky has said she will not be running July fun ride now. SP and CT were aware, but the remainder of Committee were not aware that communication had upset Vicky. DG asked that communication is clear in the future and phone is always picked up. All agreed. DG to speak with Vicky. *Post meeting note: If DG succeeds, PM happy to review all restrictions with Vicky.* DG
- 8.3 Discussed fun ride meetings in general. GP brought up fact that no one knew about the fun rides. SP commented that GP and TP were invited to fun ride meeting and didn't attend as were unable.
- 8.4 Agreed that we should try and get a fun ride in July even if Vicky does not want to do hers. Agreed that we should find someone to head up fun rides with Kate as assistant. TP to look for candidates. TP
- 8.5 PM informed ExCo that she had liaised with Kate and had documents from her. Not a full set. PM drafted new RAMS, entry forms, to do list, etc. PM to finish off. PM
- 8.6 Discussed whether Ball would be able to go ahead in October. GP commented that he was pessimistic. Agreed that if it did not take place in October we could likely push back to later in season. GP reported that it takes a month minimum to organise.
- 9.0 MASTERS' REPORT**
- 9.1 Nothing to report.
- 10.0 FALLEN STOCK**
- 10.1 DG spoken with Mathew re business. Reported that all business quiet. SP reported 50% down at the moment. Pricing just in under everyone else. Mathew seems very good. Were issues with phone line but now sorted. GP and CT to let farmers know we are back in business and ask for feedback. GP / CT
- 10.2 DG asked Mathew to make sure Ellie is comfortable with everything. SP said Mathew commented that Ellie not able to go to Martins as she won't be able to use forklift to offload. ExCo noted. Possibility of Martins offloading on odd occasion? DG to address. Possibility of training session with Ellie. DG
- 10.3 DG asked whether Mathew had been encouraged to take holiday and let known that if he doesn't take it, he will lose it. GP confirmed he has already had conversation with Mathew and Ellie and they understand. DG suggests that GP minutes his conversation he had with Mathew and Ellie. GP to keep diary. GP
- 11.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 11.1 Mathew needs new scarlet jacket. SP reported that Gordon (ex-whip) selling one, size 38-40 for £120. SP to find out Mathew's measurements and CT to contact Gordon about it. Agreed that SP should buy, regardless due to low cost. *Mid meeting note: Jacket sold*
- 11.2 GP reported that MFHA had had shake up. Hopefully for the better.
- 11.3 TI reported that roof needs cleaning and new concrete manhole cover needed at Bowery Bungalow. CT has tower scaffold that could be used for roof. Possibility of Louis' gang helping out.
- 11.4 PM asked TI if bungalow all ok with new legislation, e.g, end of grace period with deposits and periodic tenancies, new electrical inspection legislation, Binding rules, MEES, etc. TI confirmed all in order.



- 11.5 GP reported that various works required to static caravan, as follows: replacement mixer tap, gas radiator needs fitting (plumber required), new door handle on porch required and bath requires replacing with shower. GP spoke with Rob and he agreed to deal with door handle. TI to check commercial lease for responsibilities although TI and PM agreed that unlikely additional repairs are Landlord's responsibility under FRI lease. TI
- 11.6 Further to 11.4, PM reported that there may be an electric shower being taken out at home that could be recycled. PM to check at home. DG reported that he might have shower tray that would be suitable. Wait and see in September if we have money to employ plumber to undertake works. PM / DG
- 11.7 Further to 11.4, agreed that GP would buy new tap and have John Dally fit. GP
- 11.8 Further to 11.4, GP getting quote for Calor gas tank. Louis to do quote for concrete pad. GP to report back to ExCo. GP
- 11.9 Discussed lorry. Boultons slow to provide figures so DG reported that he may visit to firm up. GP reported that lorry not SORN'ed. DG queried what value to put on lorry. GP reported that he had sent photos to Garretts and they said it is worth approximately £1.5k. ExCo queried whether we could sell for more in parts or to another hunt.
- 11.10 Further to 11.8, GP reported that annual cost of lorry is approx. £2k as follows: 13 week inspection (£100), annual service (£750), MOT and lane fee (£140 July), insurance (£560), 2 year TACO inspection (£100 December) and tax (£220). Average mileage 2,900.
- 11.11 Further to 11.8, flesh truck still moving but can't be used for anything whilst being used as flesh truck. DG to do full cost analysis of all hunt vehicles. DG
- 11.12 Reported that trailer(s) rented from Ralph Bailey (£85pcm).
- 11.13 PM to circulate update email to followers. TP to draft something. PM / TP
- 12.0 ITEMS / RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEETING**
- 12.1 SP commented that she didn't feel a Zoom meeting would be well attended. Discussed and agreed to organise Committee meeting for next Monday; Monday 22 June at 7pm at Field Farm. Members to bring own chairs and thermos. To use driveway beside Mendip Topsoil. TP and PM to arrange email tomorrow. TP / PM
- 12.2 To recommend to Committee that we should use £8k in deposit account.
- 12.3 To recommend to Committee that we ask P2P Committee for £5k.
- 12.4 To mention fundraising and events such as hound sponsorship and fun rides.
- 12.5 TP to set scene and inform Committee that we are facing difficult times financially. Encourage people to pay subs up front, even if foot sub which will be deducted from mounted sub.
- 13.0 DATE OF NEXT BUSINESS**
- 13.1 Committee meeting to be held on Monday 22 June.