

**Minutes of the New Forest Hounds Executive Committee Meeting held on Monday 30th November 2020 and continued on Monday 7th December in each case by phone and video conferencing.**

**PRESENT**

Pam Baker Chair  
Andrew Hollins- Honorary Treasurer  
Alan Brown - Joint Master (7th December only)  
Graham Ferris - Joint Master  
Carol Lovell Joint Master  
Paul Ames  
Piers Fitzwilliam  
Judy Sharrock  
Penny Rendle  
Tim Goldfinch  
Tina Bick  
Mike Squibb  
Caroline House (30th November only)  
Sonia Waite  
John Curley

<b>1. Apologies</b>	Alan Brown on 30th November Caroline House on 7th December
<b>2 . Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	Agreed
<b>3. Matters Arising</b>	Supporters Club may take over the running of the 200 Club.
<b>4. Deaths and Resignations</b>	None.
<b>5. Premises</b>	<b>Mast Deal PW</b> Briefing Note for the Exec is in final stages of preparation. There are items to resolve on the Agreement. PF adopting the position that this proposed Lease should not be more onerous than the Existing Laease. Will need to make sure the Trustees are Happy before putting to Members.

<p><b>6. Kennels Update</b></p>	<p>WD has produced a Kennels Maintenance List which has been attached to the Agenda.</p> <p><b>Removal of willows</b> - TG to help</p> <p><b>A skip</b> has been donated by PW</p> <p>Spencer had some <b>wiring</b> in the Flesh House and Kennels.</p> <p><b>Flesh Truck passenger door</b> needs fixing Michael to take it to Marchwood to be fixed. TG reported on 7th December that TG had arranged for the truck door to be fixed and paid for this himself. A further part has been ordered as this is needed to enable the door to lock. It was also agreed on 7th December that hinges on the ramp should be repaired/replaced. The committee thanked TG for the work and the financial help.</p> <p><b>Blood Tank</b>, rainwater is getting in - WD thinks this can be sorted with a ditch behind the Flesh House</p> <p><b>Blocked drain</b> near the "bulging wall". It needs the cesspit to be emptied before the problem can be investigated. WD to organise tank emptying and investigation. WD reported on 7th December that the tank has been cleaned out and pipes sorted so that the drains are now cleared.</p>
<p><b>7. Treasurer's Report by AH</b></p>	<p>Reports are as provided for the Hunt Club Meeting on 3rd December.</p> <p>Bank Balance is healthy and £10k has been moved to a savings account. The loans referred to in the previous minutes have been agreed so that the Hunt has no further liability under them.</p> <p>The Hunt has received a further £1334 Covid Grant.</p> <p>JC confirmed that funds of at least 6K are available from the Supporters Club and that this could be utilised for some of the maintenance work required at Kennels.</p>
<p><b>8. Licence Update</b></p>	<p>GF reported that FE have suspended the general licence to trail hunt on FE land and accordingly the local FE office have suspended our licence pending police review of the Hunting Office Zoom videos. AH and PF were keen that we offer to take over the negotiations for the main FE licence in the future as it will currently be very difficult for the Hunting Office to do this given that they have caused the problem.</p> <p>GF also reported that as and when our licence is available, it is likely to have further restrictions as a result of habitat reports being carried out in the Forest.</p> <p>PB said that we should consider our position on subscription refunds if we are unable to trail hunt this season. It was agreed that we should postpone any decision on this until we have more information as to if and when we will get a licence.</p> <p>CL proposed small group rides to give something for Members and other to do in the meantime. This may be difficult to organise because of Covid restriction and the FE imposing a limit of 9 people riding together before a licence is required.</p>
	<p>It was agreed to terminate the meeting and resume on Monday 7th December.</p>

<p><b>Licence Update Continued 7th December</b></p>	<p>GF has written to the Hunting Office as discussed on 30th November 2020 and has offered to help with where appropriate bearing in mind our good relationship with our local FE Office.</p> <p>AB has spoken to Mark Hankinson of the Hunting Office and they will help liasing with other hunts to enable our Members and followers to visit. It was agreed that it would not be practical to take hounds.</p> <p>AB has recieved a response to our letter which was forwarded to GF.</p> <p>AB also reported that the Hunting Office thought it unlikely that we would get the licence back before the end of the season.</p> <p>AB, PR, and PB to liase re organising for Members and followers to visit other hunts. There seems to a difference between hunts as to whether they will allow us to retain the caps of our Members and followers.</p> <p>GF also reported that he had attended NF Consultation Panel Meeting where the issue of the licence was raised. GF asked them to amend their publiciry material on this to make it clear that the suspension of the licence was not as a result of anything done by the NFH. GF concerned that wording on a slide suggested that the scope of the police investigation is wider than just the words at the seminar. WD said he did belive this was the case.</p>
<p><b>10. AOB Arrangements for next season</b></p>	<p><b>Mastership</b></p> <p>PB said that the proposal was that AB should stay on for a further year as a Master but that he and GF would not cointinue as Masters beyond the end of next season. CL to continue as a Master and that these three Masters be joined by AH this season. The Mastership for next season to be ratified at HC AGM</p>
	<p><b>Huntsman</b></p> <p>Michesal has been approached by the South Dorset and has been to visit them. AB suggested we should advertise for a replacement now in case he leaves. JC said that we were in a time of great uncertainty and we should make every effort to keep him.</p> <p>WD said that Michael's main concern was how secure his home was with the licence issues and Covid. AH has reassured him that there are funds to continue his employment through next season even if we are not hunting. AH also called for people to speak to Michael and supprt him as he is isolated with no hunting and Covid restrictions.</p>
<p><b>11.AOB Trail Video</b></p>	<p>There was discussion whether we should be making a video, partly to demonstrate our trail hunting expertise which may help our position with the FE and partly to raise awarenes of the benefits of the NFH to the wider NF community.</p> <p>TB said that it would be good for Michael's moral and for the hounds to get out and do some trail hunting somewhere.</p> <p>PB proposed that we start to work out how to produce such a video. We can decide what we do with it later.</p>
<p><b>AOB Mast</b></p>	<p>See attached note setting out the proposal to suspend negotioations with AP. In the meantime, PF, AH and JS to findout what would be on offer from EE if we were to extend their existing lease. GF is seeking clarification on the position of our insurance in respect of potential liabilities under the Mast Lease.</p>
<p><b>AOB Michael's Christmas Box</b></p>	<p>PR to send e mail seeking the usual contributions. PF said we should update Members and followered as to the current licence position before seeking more money from them.</p> <p>Regular updates are to be provided, possibly with images and a video from Kennels.</p>

<b>AOB Subscriptions next Year</b>	These are supposed to increase as part of a two stage proposal on subscriptions but it was agreed that it should be put to the Hunt Club that these would be frozen for next season.
<b>AOB Future meetings</b>	<b>Hunt Club AGM to be 28th January 2021.</b> As the Agenda needs to be sent out before Christmas if possible PR to send out an email seeking anyone wanting to be elected onto the Committee. PB to confirm how many places are available.  <b>Next Exec Meeting.</b> 11th January 7pm.

Pam Baker - Chairman

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