



DMFH Ltd

Minutes of the meeting of directors held on 16th April 2019 at The Dalby Room, Monksmoor.

Present: Miss Cane (Hon. Sec), Mr Daw, Mr Dollard, Mr Goodman (Chairman), Mr Grose, Mr Hardy, Mr Jennians, Mrs Johnson, Mr Lucas, Miss Michelmore (Hon Treas.), Mrs Peters, Miss Ross, Mrs Skitt, Mrs Treneer and Mr Wookey.

Apologies: Mr Crawford, Mrs Eyston MFH, Mr Glanville, Mr Lyle MFH, Dr Mills, Mrs Owen and Mr Peacock.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th February 2019 were agreed. Proposed by and seconded by Bill Lucas.

2. Matters arising

Paintings fund for the Masters, Mr Goodman informed directors that he has had to renegotiate the price for the paintings. The costs of the masters paintings albums £1300 net what has come in. The artist demanded more £1700 plus framing. Not pleased with this, as the figure had been agreed. Expect some further funding to be received; the remainder will need to come out of hunt funds. Will need to consider how acknowledgement can be sent in the future.

3. Correspondence

Mr Lucas and Mr Goodman will be attending the forthcoming AGM of the Harford & Ugborough Commoners Association.

Invitations received from Devon County Show and North Devon Show to enter a team in to the Inter hunt relay.

4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr Goodman proposed Mrs Peters as chairman and seconded by Miss Ross. No further nominations.

Nominations for Vice Chairman, Mrs Treneer proposed by Mrs Peters and seconded by Mr Lucas.

Mr Goodman thanked the officers during his tenure; thanks were also paid to Mr and Mrs Treneer for their legal advice during this period. Finally thanked the joint masters, for their support throughout his time as chairman.

Mrs Peters thanked Mr Goodman for all his hard work, especially during the change of mastership.

5. Mastership Update

Mrs Peters informed directors that Mr Gosling had signed the masters agreement. There have been discussions on how to use the offal book. Mr Gosling has brought 8 horses for the forthcoming season. Mr Gosling has appointed a new Kennel Huntsman, Harry Cook who will be joining us from the Bicester and Whaddon Chase. The flesh wagon has been purchased from Mr Lyle. Mr Gosling is looking forward to be shown around Dartmoor, our farmers and the country including bogs and crossings!

As you know Matthew Tunmore will leave his employment at the end of the season: Matthew is employed by the Masters, but it became apparent during the latter part of the season that discussions about the ending of his employment would need to include DMFH Ltd. Those discussions did proceed on an amicable and confidential basis. Alongside those discussions, advice was taken from The Hunting Office and from the Solicitors who provide their legal helpline.

In light of advice given, and bearing in mind the gratitude which we all feel towards Matthew for his hard work over the past six seasons, it was decided that DMFH Ltd should participate in a fairly generous financial settlement for Matthew, to the extent of £2,000 plus the proceeds of our collections for him.

The payment (as part of a redundancy package) was structured so as to be the most tax efficient for Matthew. The above sum represents a proportion of Matthews' overall settlement package, the balance of which is to be paid by the Masters.

We have also a photo album for Matthew kindly put together by Nigel Owen which we will give Matthew but with no formal presentation as that is not his wish.

Lessons have been learnt and agreed that in future an annual employment contract should be agreed by the master and his staff to ensure that this would not be a matter for the hunt again. Mr Hardy thanked the officers involved for the valuable work that they undertook. Mrs Peters thanked Mrs Treneer for her support through this.

A BACS transfer will be made to Mr Tunmore 1st May.

6. Finance report

Subscriptions are down £2,000 on the year before.

Building repairs includes £3,700 from Mr Curtain. One certificate remains outstanding.

£1,500 cesspit includes £250 discharge license

An auction of pledges payment was not fulfilled so refund was made.

Sundries do include gifts licenses, Mr Tunmore etc.

Forecast that there may be a surplus of £2,569 without any nasty surprises we may break even.

Mr Grose raised a question regarding the resources, are there more moneys which need to be paid? Business rates, we will be expecting to be up to £7,000 per year over the next 3 years. There was a small business relief. But this was a one off. Some transitional relief had been put in place initially. The risk of appeal is too high. General trend is down. Challenges are not sustainable. Need to maintain dialogue with our neighboring moor hunts. Mr Grose confirmed that we are not alone in these challenges. We are in a position of particular strength; officers need to continue in meetings with these hunts.

Miss Cane asked whether there have been further discussions regarding country; Mr Goodman confirmed that we have maintained our line with regards to the country south of the A38.

Without exploring avenues; there is less money coming in from the riders. The supporters club has provided £21,000 this year. Another auction of pledges could raise a considerable amount of money.

7. Kennel report

Mr Jennians provided an update. The electrical works have been completed.

Miss Michelmore informed that the master has arranged a contractor to look at the drains. The issue may be due to volume, these to be pumped out this week. Could be that the soak away needs to be cleared? Mr Jennians requested that he is included in these discussions and that he does not want be the last to know.

Mr Lucas suggested the use of muck munchers. Mrs Johnson has a free sample and will pass to Mr Jennians

The work on the gutters and fascia boards may need to put on hold depending on the outcome of the tanks.

Mrs Peters thanked Mr Jennians for his input and confirmed that we will work on better communications.

8. AOB

Mrs Peters has spoken to Mr Gosling to arrange a meet and greet the team at the end of May.

Forthcoming events;

Point to point (food welcomed for the hospitality tent)

Party in the park

Hunt show

9. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 29th May 2019.

The meeting closed.

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