



CHANONRY SAILING CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 18th September 2008

Present: Richard Jenner (Chair), George Hogg, Richard Robinson, Diarmid Hogan, Helen Jenner, Roxby Robson, and Dave Dunton.

Agenda Item

Action

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah Dunton, David Pocock, Jon Shepherd, Caireen Gourlay and Pam Moncur.

2. Minutes of meeting of 19 August 2008

The minutes were proposed for agreement by HJ, seconded by RR and approved by those present.

3. Action Points & Matters arising

- All action points were discharged or addressed on the agenda with the exception of the following which were carried forward:
 - **AP15 (20/11/7)** RR/JS/RE to consider and recommend a telephone/internet package. It was agreed to put this on hold until we're clearer about what is needed. **RR/JS/RE**
 - **AP1 (19/8/8)**. Revise application form to invite new applicants for membership to contribute to the running of the club. **JS**
 - **AP2 (19/8/8)**. Safety and Race Officer training to be offered at no cost to trainees. **RJ**
 - **AP3 (19/8/8)**. Revise wording of questionnaire issued in November to try to encourage a better return rate. **JS**
 - **AP 15 (19/8/8)**. To consider the merits of changing the status of the club from a Voluntary Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee. **RR/GH**
- RJ updated in relation to the Lettoch sale. The only outstanding boundary issue is on the fixing of the Eastern boundary. Having looked into it further Jon Shepherd is of the view that this is the most easily defined boundary of the site and has provided a report to Joe Duncan on this. Joe has written to the Registrar asserting this and is still awaiting a response despite having chased it up a number of times. If this is not accepted then the Club will have to look to agree the position with our neighbours.

4. Accident Book/H&S Issues

There are no new entries in the Accident Book nor are there any H&S issues requiring discussion.

5. Funding Working Group Recommendations

GH outlined the response to the consultation. There had been some 51 responses in all within the timescale. Family members had counted as two votes. On this basis the membership was very closely split between the two options with some 36 to 32 votes in favour of Option 2 (increasing income via the membership fee). In comments many of those responding had favoured keeping fees simple (ie Option 2) but had also recognised the advantages of introducing charges to help manage the dinghy park and to a lesser extent Winter cruiser storage which formed a part of Option 1.

RJ then led a long discussion of how the Committee might take this forward and in particular what might be recommended to the forthcoming AGM. The Committee also considered the written input of those unable to attend the meeting. There was consideration of an 'Option 3' which was to increase fees and introduce charges for use of the dinghy park and cruiser storage. Opinion was divided on whether this would ease potential over crowding. Following discussion it was agreed that as Option 2 was effectively the status quo and that the consultation had not given the Committee a clear mandate to move radically away from this and that space issues and 'fairness' should be addressed through the application of 'rules' (see also item 6) rather than fees. On that basis Option 2 would be presented to the AGM as the way forward for 2009 but without prejudicing the possibility of introducing storage charges in the future.

As had been agreed at the previous meeting, the Committee continued to support the introduction of a joining fee and a more rigorous line on renewal of membership. There was discussion on whether the Club could collect fees by direct debit and Pay Pal and these options merited further investigation before renewal notices were sent (**AP1**). The revised collection process would be explained at the AGM and would consist of a combined invitation to renew and a 'data' collection sent out late in the year for return and payment early in the New Year. Those missing the deadline would no longer be deemed to be members and would have to pay the joining fee should they wish to renew at a later date. The handbook, a membership card and boat stickers would be sent out only to those who had renewed and the handbook would be based on actual members rather than anticipated members (**AP2**).

RJ/RR

JS

There was then a discussion on the 2009 fees and it became apparent that while the Committee agreed the amount of income that needed to be raised annually, the actual shortfall was not known because the 2008 accounts were still open. It was evident that the AGM occurred too close to the end of the accounting year for the Committee to have proper oversight of the accounts before they were presented to the AGM. As a consequence the Committee would only be in a position to fix fees after the AGM (which was the status quo) but consideration should be given to moving the close of the financial year forward in 2009 (the date of the AGM being set in the constitution) (**AP3**).

RR

This funding item will need to be carefully presented at the AGM, both to explain the outcome of the consultation and the need to raise additional funding. RJ, RR and GH will get together before the AGM to agree how to present this item (**AP4**).

RJ/RR/GH

6. Agreement of Members' Benefits Table

The members' benefits table previously circulated by RJ was discussed. It

was agreed that there was a need to define closely what benefits the various categories of membership were entitled to to avoid confusion, assist the Harbourmaster in interpreting the Club's rules and to manage issues such as the dinghy park and the storing of boat cradles over the Summer. The draft of the table circulated with the papers of the meeting was agreed subject to RJ updating it to reflect Option 2 fee basis and to link the table to some 'rules'. RJ will circulate this round the Committee for their agreement before it is presented to the membership at the AGM (AP5).

RJ

HJ pointed out that while the harbour had a clear manager (ie the Harbourmaster), this was not the case with the dinghy park and an improved management of this would require a designated committee member to take charge. It was agreed to designate a member of the new committee as the dinghy park manager (AP6).

GH (for tracking)

7. AGM Preparations

Preparations for the AGM were discussed. GH will circulate the draft minute from last year's AGM for agreement of the Committee before it is presented to members at the AGM (AP7).

GH

Committee nominations for the office bearers and general member positions to be filled at the AGM were agreed. It was also agreed that these nominations would be printed on the back of the Notice for the AGM so that members could be aware of who was being nominated for these positions (AP8).

GH

It was further agreed that those presenting formal reports ie the Commodore, Sailing Secretary, Treasurer and Training Principal should circulate draft reports around the Committee in advance of the AGM for comment. This should avoid unnecessary overlap or omissions between reports (AP9).

RJ/HJ/RR

8. Decision on Whether to take out Additional Insurance Cover for Directors

RJ summarised his understanding of the current insurance position on the back of previously circulated emails. Further information is awaited from our insurers in relation to the current cover. One current gap is where Directors might be held to have slandered/libelled/breached contract. It was agreed not to take out additional cover suggested by our insurers to cover this risk as it was felt the risk was relatively small.

The issue of whether directors/officers of the Club would be covered for legal defence costs in the event of a court case. This is not clear at present. RJ will find out whether our current insurance includes this element of cover and will circulate his findings round the Committee (AP10).

RJ

9. Levelling of Harbour

Following earlier email exchanges the decision to take advantage of dredging at Avoch to get the Fortrose Harbour floor levelled, the removal of the bar outside the harbour mouth and, if possible, the creation of a deeper channel. It was confirmed that David Pocock has the delegated authority of the Committee to commission this work subject to a financial cost limit of £1,000 (AP11).

DP

10. AOCB

There was none.

17 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will be fixed once the new committee has been elected at the AGM.