

FGSC



Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday 20 September 2007 at 7.30pm West Walton Village Hall

Attending:

Tiff & Judith Hall, Shane & Emma Durston, Trixi Dix, Ian Dack, Barbara Dobson, Tony Dudley

Apologies for absence:

Caroline Wilkinson, Carol Matthews, Tony Turk

Carol sent her apologies for absence with Emma and requested the following be said on her behalf *'Carol is not attending because it is a 60mile round trip and she had received a call from Trixi earlier in the week to inform her of a meeting that took place on Monday 17th Sept with Tiff, Judith, Caroline and Trixi regarding the increase of club subscription. She sees no point in coming as a decision outside the committee appears to have been made and that her vote is clearly not needed'*

1. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes were reviewed by SD (who chaired the last meeting) and agreed by all as correct. Vice Chairman signed copy of minutes.

2. Actions arising from last meeting

BD advised that a soft copy of the club rules is available and apologised for not sending this onto SD as yet. BD also advised that the tool's workshop will have to be postponed until the spring but is still going to take place. Paul H will prepare the Beginner's Guide to Bee Keeping leaflet, this item is pending.

Mick and Carol Matthews are providing the catering for the Produce Show, in-keeping with the potato theme and Mick will do a brief talk on seed potatoes and Kings seeds.

Tony D advised that he and Melissa have searched all the local trophy shops to locate something suitable for the Keith Tomlinson Writers Award. Nothing in the shape of a book appears available. Tony had a suggestion to contact club members David & Tina Mills as David does woodwork and he may be able to make something appropriate for us. Tony will make contact with David.

Trixi volunteered to prepare a quiz for the Christmas Party. Mick Matthews has also lodged his support via SD and Tiff advised that Sam, Marcus and Jonathan are willing to run the Christmas party. It was suggested that Tiff talk to all parties and agree arrangements.

Trixi advised that she made enquiries about a club advert in the West Walton Parish Magazine. It would cost the club £35 for six months. The committee compared this to our own charges for advertisers for a year and considered the cost too high to proceed.

3. Treasurers report

Bank account balance	£1247.52
Savings balance	£1301.48 – interest rate recently increased by 0.25%
Cash	£12.31

Trixi asked if everyone had the figures from Monday nights meeting, only Shane and Tiff had the details. Trixi handed out a spreadsheet of club spend for the current financial year detailing income, expenditure and additional fund raising activity. There were some initial changes advised by Trixi and those present made amendments accordingly.

Each committee member present asked questions and gave their own understanding of the figures provided. There was extensive discussion by all on the interpretation of the club spend, how this should be recorded and whether the club is currently in profit or not.

It was pointed out that the club newsletter cannot be taken as a 'static' cost and must be considered as a 'fluctuating' cost as it does depend on how many pages an issue has, how many are printed, and how many are posted (as some are hand delivered). It was agreed this must be taken into account when calculating the membership income versus the cost of the newsletter. It was suggested that significant savings could be made on the printing and postage of the newsletter if members were asked for their preference in receiving the newsletter. An electronic version of the newsletter could be e-mailed to those members preferring this method. This issue is being researched and remains pending.

It was pointed out that fund raising income to the club was considered in addition to the regular income and should not be relied upon to meet expenditure to run the club. Views were expressed that fund raising should be used for paying guest speakers, providing training and running courses / trips out, in addition to the regular activities of the club.

From the spreadsheet figures presented a projection for 2008 was calculated during the meeting to assist those present in understanding the financial status of the club going forward.

After expression of views by all those present, detailed analysis of the club accounts to date and the projection for the forthcoming year, the committee has reached a decision on this issue. The annual subscription fee of £10.00 will remain unchanged for 2008 and this will be presented at the AGM for ratification in accordance with the club constitution (3.d)

4. Review of Club Constitution

The Constitution was briefly referred to during discussions above, a full review of the constitution was not considered necessary at this meeting.

5. Any Other Business

From discussions about the annual subscription, Tony D made a proposal that a Training Officer should be considered as a new post onto the committee. This was seconded by Ian D and all those present voted that this was a good idea. This item will be on the agenda for the AGM.

Tony D advised that he had not received any figures prior to the meeting held today and that he was unaware of the meeting on Monday. He felt that all matters should remain in the committee meeting without 'sub' meetings being held. Tiff responded by advising that Mondays meeting was purely to assist in preparing the information for all to ensure a meaningful and conclusive meeting took place today and that the meeting was required only on the basis of assisting a generation gap on the interpretation of accounting.

Judith made a suggestion for February 08's meeting. A lambing and general health talk by Norfolk Farm Vets. All agreed this as a good idea. Judith will pursue this.

Trixi suggested for March 08's meeting a talk on eggs, including a show of eggs and a 'paint your egg' competition for the children. All agreed this as a good idea. Trixi will pursue this.

Shane suggested another carcass butchery demonstration possibly in April. Trixi will talk to Sandy Parkinson about whether she will do another demo, this time on a pig carcass.

Barbara advised her revised e-mail address as items have been going to Paul Howe.
Barbara@birchtree.org.uk

Barbara also expressed a view that the cost of refreshment at 50p a drink and 50p a piece of cake is too expensive as this can add up to rather a lot for a whole family attending. She asked for this to be reviewed. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Emma advised that we had been invited to attend the Ely Harvest Festival held at the cathedral on 13/14th October. In view of our attendance at the Autumn show at Peterborough on the same weekend, Emma will politely decline on this occasion.

Mick and Carol Matthews, Barbara Dobson and Tiff & Judith Hall will be manning the club stand at Ramsey on 30th September.

Peterborough show is being attended by most of the committee who will take it in turns to man the stand, we will be inside like last year. Trixi will send the tickets out to the committee once she receives them.

In view of the vacant Catering Secretary position, it was clarified that the catering is covered for events until the year end. There is the Harvest lunch in October, Judith (with helpers) will take care of the November meeting requirements and December is covered by the Christmas party.

Shane advised that he and Emma received a letter and generous donation from Eddie & Phara who were unable to attend the fun day due to their farm shop work commitments. Sincere thanks are expressed to Eddie & Phara by the club.

Shane advised that its time to alter the picture on the website committee page from himself and Emma and suggested trying to get a group committee photo to put on there. In the meantime, he will place a picture of Tiff on the site.

Shane also advised that he has a membership card to a cash and carry outlet and if desired he is happy to purchase bulk items (i.e. tea bags/sugar) for the club to assist in saving club spend.

Via Emma, Carol advised that *'she will resigning from the committee at the AGM and does not intend to continue into 2008'*

Date of next meeting

Meeting to be held at West Walton Village Hall **Thursday 15th November** at 7.30pm