

# WHITCHURCH RAMBLING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Whitchurch Town Hall - 22 September 2010

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Sue Reynolds, Maureen Evans, Vic & Eve Jordan

### **2 Minutes of 2009 AGM**

These were read and agreed.

### **3 Matters arising from the minutes**

Mike Fletcher clarified that for Summer Activities we had had both a Barbeque and a Summer Party.

Jeff noted that Jean had been elected to the committee in her absence, and had later declared that she did not wish to serve.

### **4 Treasurer's Report for 2010**

As she was not going to be present, Sue had sent the accounts to the Chairman with a covering note, which Jeff read out. In essence she apologised for her absence, presented the accounts and added that, having been treasurer for 3 years she wanted to pass on the mantle and would work closely with the new Treasurer to ease the changeover.

The bank balance had intentionally reduced by about £40 due to subsidies for the skittles and the barbeque.

Chas asked what amount we should aim to retain in the account. Jeff replied that in the past we had needed to cover a deposit with the hotel for the walking weekend. Heather thought that we now collected cheques from members early enough that they would be cleared before we had to pay out. Jeff noted that nowadays members were individually responsible for paying the hotel directly.

Heather recollected that it had been the intention in the past to help farmers replace styles and perform other footpath maintenance. It was noted that the cost of a 'style' nowadays would probably be more than the entire balance, and Julie mentioned that we would invite liability if we did.

Barry asked if we held any equipment, to which Heather replied that we had purchased a walking stick for Sarah (a former member). Chas thought that we shouldn't supply any equipment, again due to liability.

Julie asked Heather how much she thought the balance should be, to which she replied around £300, but she also pointed out that the balance had originally been built up by the hard work of former members organising raffles and such, so they should have some say if we were now going to dispose of it.

Jill suggested that we invite the former members on a coach trip, to which Jeff suggested she join the committee.

Various suggestions were mooted, including rejoining the Ramblers Association, which was put to the vote and rejected.

At the end of the day it was decided that the committee would think about making 6 suggestions and asking the members to choose, and that in the meantime it was acceptable for the balance to reduce by around £40 per year, and the Secretary was instructed to claim his out of pocket expenses to help with this.

The accounts were agreed.

## 5 Election of Committee for 2011

Jeff explained that he had approached Jackie Browne concerning the post of Treasurer, and that she was willing to stand.

Mike Fletcher passed the Chairman a letter from Vic & Eve Jordan, which he read out. In essence it said that 'In the event of there being an election for the committee, we would like to propose Charles Roach for chairman.', and that Eve would be prepared to remain on the Committee.

Nobody else was proposed for the post of Chairman so a vote was taken resulting in:

Chas 8

Jeff 5

Abstentions 1

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Chas Roach	Eve Jordan	Barry Thomas
Treasurer	Jackie Browne	Jeff Geary	Nick Copp
Secretary	Nick Copp	Chas Roach	Joyce Fletcher

The size of the Committee was discussed and it was generally agreed that it could be smaller than in previous years. During the course of discussion various ideas were mentioned including getting the members to pick and lead the walks (formerly the main duty of the Committee), having shorter walks so they could be slower and having 2 walks programmes to run simultaneously (one as in recent years and the other slower).

Brian Bent	Maureen Evans	Jeff Geary	Eve Jordan	Julie Roach
Barry Thomas	Jill Thomas			

## **6 Winter Activities**

Chas took the Chair and proposed that we repeat last year's activities of Skittles in December and a Dinner in January, to which the majority were in favour.

Julie & Chas offered to organise The Red Lion, as previously, but there were objections. After some discussion there was a vote to pick from The Red Lion and The Hurstbourne, the latter being elected by majority.

For the Skittles, The Harvest Home having closed, Nick suggested The Red Lion, Overton (which could accommodate up to 30 at a cost of £9.50 per head) on the basis that it was the nearest. He was authorised to book it on a Saturday in late November.

## **7 Summer Activities**

A Summer Party was discussed. The majority had preferred bringing their own victuals as against a few preparing a buffet for everyone. Julie mentioned that The White Hart could provide 'Fish and Chips' for £5 per head. Perhaps the members could be offered an option. Keith & Jean would be asked if they would be prepared to offer their garden again.

Julie said that she had enjoyed the Barbecue last time, to which there was general agreement. Jeff had previously spoken to Maureen and she would be prepared to offer her facilities.

The coach outing previously mentioned was suggested again, with ideas to be requested of the membership.

Chas expanded on his idea to send all members a list of walks and ask them to list their favourites and least favourite. Members could offer to lead their favourites. The Committee would then devise a walks programme based on those suggestions having due regard to length of drive and sunset times.

## **8 Any Other Business**

Claire stated that the year's walks had been fabulous.

Jill requested that the walks programme should contain more detail so people would have a better idea of their difficulty.

It was suggested that walk leaders should be asked to pay closer attention to those at the back, and slow down if necessary.

Mike pointed out that it had been too dark to do the final walk as planned.

Julie suggested that we finish the last walk at a pub.

Chas proposed a vote of thanks to Jeff for his years of service as Chairman.

The meeting ended at 21:00:13