

**CANTERBURY ROTARY CLUB**  
**MINUTES OF THE CLUB COUNCIL MEETING**

**on Tuesday 30th July 2019 at 6.30 pm at Kent and Canterbury Club.**

Present: The President: Neil Fraser (NF); Rotarians: V Pritchard (VP), A Mepstead (AM), T Loughran (TL), D Barton (DB), R Anderson (RA), S Thompson (ST) M Ward (MW), P Hermitage (PH), M McGeary (MMcG). In Attendance: D Connolly (Taking Minutes)

Apologies: Dr M Griffin (MG), R Boyd-Howell (RBH)

Minutes of the Meeting of 18th June 2019: Approved.

Matters Arising: None.

**1. Remit**

NF discussed his statement of intent as President:

He identified he intends to have an 'open style', that all discussions in Council meetings should be confidential within the group, and that there should be mutual support between members.

**2. Presidents Business**

NF updated his 'statement of intent'

Primary Issues:

a) He is keen to pursue Global Grants. These can be for local charities if there is a supporting club overseas. Alastair Scott is going to lead on this project.

b) NF also hopes to increase membership by 5 people per annum.

c) The Millennium Fund was discussed, and it was agreed to try to involve a wider selection of schools and reach out to pupils from less advantaged backgrounds. Clearly the Millennium Fund is a separate charity to the Rotary Club. MMcG has already approached The Inspiring Minds Programme, developed by Finley Lawson at Christchurch University, which is designed to build pupils' confidence and encourage interest in STEM subjects in schools. MW also suggested targeting pupils in Northgate Ward, as there is a high degree of deprivation and poverty in that area of Canterbury. NF credited Roger Power for all his work in significantly improving the operation of the Millennium Trust Fund.

Secondary issues:

a) Club Council had already agreed in January 2019 that a presentation on the Rotary Dignity Policy should be given to the club. NF has prepared a draft presentation to be given later this year, and he will send it to Council Members and welcomes comments. MW stated that the Membership Committee had already identified that it would be useful to reinforce the Rotary 4-Way Test in some club meetings. There was also concern about the content of some e-mails being sent between members.

b) The need to engage more with Honorary Club members, widows and widowers of the club, and Inner Wheel members, was also discussed.

c) It was agreed that the club should improve links with other local clubs, via The Cluster Group, and to possibly facilitate some joint district funding projects in the future. BA and NF visiting Chestfield Rotary to discuss the Honey Bears Nursery on 1.8.19.

d) Changes to about 10-20% of club meetings was discussed, with different times and venues this year. The meeting at Barham last week had been a success.

Meals at club meetings would be increasing in price. Discussed the need to increase the cost of a meal from £15.50 to possibly £16.50 as soon as possible. Agreed this would be decided by Club Service within a week, as our meal costs have increased.

Centenary Event- ST will present proposed plans at next Business meeting (26.7.19), and ask for agreement by club.

### **3. Discussion on Club Service-**

AM discussed his report about the role of Club Service and interface with Club Council in the future. He discussed different possible alternatives. Council members raised concerns about another layer of committee meetings and more bureaucracy in the club. DB suggested that the Chairman of Club Service could serve for 3 years and improve continuity.

PH then presented and circulated his ideas on future Club organisation and structure. This was felt to be very useful and NF will study the different proposals.

VP also suggested that Business Meetings need more structure.

ST raised concerns that members only able to attend evening meetings may feel 'divorced' from the club and suffer from a lack of communication. It was agreed that the improved website was helpful. NF will be reaching out to members who attend club meetings infrequently.

### **4. Financial Report:**

Summary of Funds for June/July was circulated and discussed by Treasurer, ST. ST reported that some Club members had not yet paid their annual subscriptions, and so income not as high. He will contact and remind these members. There were also some debts in the total dining account.

ST suggested increasing the Standing Order amount collected for members dining, and council approved this.

ST was concerned that the Charity A/C does not have much money at present, and discussed concerns about funding JPP4 next year. The issue is that the Duck Race alone is insufficient to fund our Charity requirements. Over the past year or so we have reduced our charitable reserves to try to keep Community and International funded.

Additionally, we have a liability to pay JPP4 2000 Euro this year (October 2019) and also in 2020 and we should now be accruing for both of those.

It was agreed that to rely just on the Duck Race is risky, something could always go wrong, such as weeds, bad weather etc.

Money from any successful Global Grant submission would be treated as 'new funds' and would be separate from our Charity Account.

This year we have to plan and instigate a second major regular fundraising event to restore the balance in the charity account. It is a major challenge that the Club must meet.

### **5. Secretary's Announcements:**

The Speakers Secretary, Philip Abbott, has speakers arranged for all meetings until Christmas. NF suggested it would be very helpful for all Club Council members to offer to speak and/or arrange a visiting speaker.

Any Other Business: BA requested more time at next Council meeting to discuss finances; and this was agreed.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th August 2019 at 6pm, at Kent and Canterbury Club.