



# Ashlett Sailing Club Ltd



Minutes of the Board Meeting held Thursday 21st February 2019.  
in the Clubhouse starting at 7 pm.

Invited Directors: Mike Cooper , Dave Stewart, Merv Griffiths, Dave Young,  
Sue Doyle. Keith Guy-Gibbens, Alan Morrison,

Invited co-opted: Julian Pearson, Sharon Wardle, Jim Hopwood.

Item 1. Apologies for Absence ; Jacky Olden

Item 2. Commodores opening remarks

Good evening one and all. Thank you for attending the last meeting of this current committee. David has a number of things for us to discuss tonight, so please make this an enjoyable last meeting.

Item 3. Minutes of the last meeting. -

3.1. Matters arising ;

3.1.1 Solent protection society - need to respond to previous request;-

Hon Sec has replied by email to Richard Brown of the RYA expressing our concern regarding silting and damage caused by the trawlers.

3.1.2 Question of ownership regarding new moorings.

As per club rules, moorings are granted to members on an annual basis, and those members are expected to maintain those moorings to club standards. A pricing structure has been developed (advertised in July edition of Creek News) which applies to the lifting / replacing blocks, renewing chains, shackles and mooring buoys. It was decided that the charge would be a 'service' charge and would not entitle ownership. In the case of new moorings being laid the one-off service charge would apply to that member accepting the mooring, and the usual annual fee would then apply. The mooring master was keen to supply and fit retrospectively, new mooring buoys to each existing mooring and make a charge to the mooring holder to recoup the expense to the club. This was in response to repeated pleas and warnings to mooring holders to ensure their buoys are clearly marked with their correct mooring number. This has failed to occur in the majority of cases and is the cause of much frustration to the mooring master in identifying each mooring. The new buoys would be clearly marked and tagged. It was pointed out that if mooring owners were charged for the new buoys, then technically they've bought them and would be at liberty to remove them if they so felt on giving up their mooring. We could levy a one-off 'service' charge for these and therefore they would always be the property of ASC Ltd. No conclusion was drawn and the item requires further discussion in order to progress.

#### 4.. H&S

4.1. Review the Incident Book. - Nothing.

4.2 Review First Aid Report - Nothing .

#### Item 5. Officer's Reports.

##### **5.1 Commodore**

As I have previously made you aware, The Fawley Waterside Company have recently leased all of the land that surrounds the club. Upon receiving this news I immediately contacted Mr Aldred Drummond, Chairman of the Company. After expressing my concerns to him, I was assured that he had no immediate intentions for the land, and for the time being the land would be left as it was, with the exception that there may be some scrub clearance further down the line. He has not taken over our lease, and again states he has no intention of doing so. A 'Right of Way' for access to the club at all times has also been put in place. I must remind you here that only the track closest to the south bank is all that we are entitled to, and not the second section that has been created without permission. I believe we should consider clearing back the trees and bushes on the correct track, before they get any bigger, in case we are deprived of the use of the second track sometime in the future. As it is, the Lorries that empty our bins and cesspit can only use the outer track. Perhaps time for a work party, and I believe Julian is qualified in the use of a chain saw.

I also discussed the track with Mr Drummond, outlining the history between us, the Parish Council, and the ex-tenants of the Jolly Sailor. He had not been made aware of any of this, and was keen to get something sorted. I was asked to put Andrew Kitcher on standby, which I have done.

My thoughts are now on the long term future of the club and possible scenarios that could be played out over the forthcoming years. Clearly Esso is in a mood to offload its responsibilities, and one wonders what will happen in nineteen years' time when our lease ends. Some of you are aware that when the WSSC went into administration, I approached Mr Drummond with a view to him stepping in should Esso not have been inclined to offer us a lease. If our negotiations should have failed, that would have been our backstop. He was in total agreement with this course of action at that time, which does highlight that he is very interested in the club and its potential to his company. I believe future Directors of Ashlett Sailing Club Limited should consider all options for the club and consider amongst those possibilities the purchase of the site. Such actions would require a considerable sum of money being raised to achieve this. Maybe a mortgage or a serious investment

programme to secure a capital sum. The trick is to consider when would be the right time to act. We would need to show that the Company was serious with its intent, and that would be accomplished in part, by declaring a healthy financial position. Mr Drummond is still after other parcels of land around the area, and I judge this situation as something we and our successors must take on board if we are to see the club continue in its current format.

Still on the Esso theme, I am disappointed that they chose not to enlighten us on the recent events, and that I had to learn of it from Ms Tillyer, the grazier of the land. I have also found that some of the individuals in Esso that have been involved in the dredging and silt removal inquiries have moved on to pastures new. After an email conversation with Sara Dawes, I was informed that she would pass on the paperwork to someone called 'Ash'. I was given no means by which I could communicate with this fellow, and after further email conversations was given his contact details. Whether this guy is handling both dredging and our request concerning where to place the silt from the jetty site, I know not. I feel let down by Esso quite frankly, as from day one we have had to fight tooth and nail every inch of the way from the day the WSSC went into administration. On the face of it, it seems everyone else gets handed sums of money for small projects, but we don't even get permissions that we seek, at no cost to Esso. I think you can deduce from that, that I am no further forward on the placement of the silt from the jetty area, or getting some progress on the possibility of some dredging, even though I am now in possession of some large plans showing the depth readings of the creek right up to Victoria Quay which they requested.

I think we have all fought and cursed the key safe for several years. Sharon has now purchased one that is man enough for the job. Sharon and Tony have now modified the computer unit containing the old key safe, and the new key safe has been securely fixed to the wall in a position where it can be accessed in good light conditions

As reported earlier, I have broken the ice with the new tenants of the Jolly Sailor. They were so pleased that I had approached them, as they had been considering how they could indeed approach us. Mark and Jo are keen to assist us in any way possible, and I went through a number of options with them, one of which was to hold function in the pub for the club, should we desire it. They are only doing Pizzas at the moment whilst part of the kitchens are renovated, but by March everything should be up and running. They have no interest in the track and the green so far as water displacement is concerned, and Mark even suggested lifting the dragons teeth, and cutting the bund away completely. This was music to my ears. It just goes to show what mischief and damage can be caused by a couple of misfits. I hope we can all look forward to a good working relationship with them in the future.

Our quiz and chips evening was a great success even though the questions tested some of us to the limit. I won't be putting myself forward for Mastermind any time soon, that's for sure. The chippy at Holbury did us proud, and I am grateful to Sharon heading off into the night to collect same in the most miserable of weather conditions. I have to say that Tony

did a very professional job in entertaining us, and really got the old brain cells fizzing. Thank you Tony, and very well done.

A small matter of concern is the reporting of one member's boat being untied from its mooring on the south bank. The consequences of an unknown person's actions could have resulted in damage to his boat, and possibly others as well. When walking the south bank please keep an eye out for any further problems.

Finally I would like it placed on record that you have been a great bunch of guys to work with over the past year, and with your support we have kept the club firmly on the rails. There will always be things thrown at us, but I think we have proved beyond doubt that all of you are capable of coming to the right conclusions whatever the problem may be. I extend a personal thanks to each and every one of you for your time and effort that you have put into the club. you most certainly have been patient with me at times, which in turn has earned my deepest respect.

Please pause for a moment for those members that are no longer with us, and their contributions made to the club over the years. Without their dedication to ensuring the future of our club, we would not be where we are today.

Michael

A vote of thanks was taken in recognition of Mikes tenure as Commodore, and the hard work he has put in to getting ASCLtd to where it is today.

## **5.2 Treasurers Report**

### **5.2.1 Discuss and agree the annual report prior to the AGM**

Unfortunately mid way through the accounting period, our treasurer had to step down. Our replacement, Sharon kindly stepped up and took over the role. The committee also agreed to engage a firm of accountants to ensure we stay within the framework of Companies House rules. As a result of spending much time in reconciling the different accounting systems used during the year, the full audited accounts may not be prepared in time for the AGM. Sharon will present the unaudited balance sheet, and once the full audited version is available, this will be sent to each member.

A vote of thanks was taken in recognition of the exceptional workload Sharon has produced.

### 5.2.2 Computer accounting package

After discussion with accountants I have been trialling some computer accounting packages. Some are far too expensive and complicated for the club. The latest one - Clubtreasurer - has generated the attached report.

Please check this report over and give me your comments.

Still using the trial version - which seems to be very user friendly.

Cost - free but with adverts or Premium £40 per annum - can be upgraded so that up to 5 users can access it.

*The committee agreed unanimously that Sharon can purchase the Premium package.*

**One day I may not need to report the following:**

#### **Bank**

Finally (as at 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019) I was able to access online banking. Unfortunately, I have had to lodge a formal complaint with Nat West Business Banking on behalf of ASC. Since removing previous finance director in October 2018, he has received bank statements, letters and on the 11<sup>th</sup> February an email. Once the new committee is in place, I will switch banks.

*Sharon has received a written apology from Nat West and will receive compensation of £100 as a goodwill gesture*

#### **Biffa**

Another invoice dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 stating 'wasted journey'. Credit note received but only after more phone calls from Alan and myself. I will continue to monitor these invoices.

#### **Cleansing Service Group**

Spoke to Louise who confirmed that direct debit has been set up on the bank account despite emails to the contrary.

#### **Telephone Bill**

Another company that didn't want to remove previous finance directors' email address from their records. To save on bank charges we have changed from monthly to quarterly billing.

Please note: latest invoice £189.07 covers regular charges from November 2018 to March 2019.

Annual Charity Beneficiary ; Hythe Sea Scouts, who are our 2018/9 charity will receive a cheque for £339.12p being money raised from our xmas evening, fun day, and quiz n chips night. Members will be asked at the AGM for nominations for our next period.

Sharon has sought to clarify the guidelines relating to the requirement of a licence to use broadcasting equipment at the club, including listening to the radio. After much time wasted 'on hold' trying to get someone to talk to, and receiving no response to emails , it was agreed for now that the club radio would be removed until we are able to quantify which licence we require. (There are so many permutations depending on how you classify your club, No of members, whether you require just background music or entertainment etc etc). Licence fees vary wildly from £40 to several hundred per annum.

# Receipts & Payments Account by Fund

Ashlett Sailing Club

01-JAN-2019 - 31-JAN-2019

	Amount	Amount	Amount
<u>All Funds</u>			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		63,329.83	
Cash/Bank Opening Balances	63,329.83		
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>		223.63	
Donations	1.00		
Social Income	59.87		
Lift-in & Out - use of tractor	10.00		
Key Deposits	100.00		
Bank Interest	52.76		
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			63,553.46
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<u>GENERAL COSTS</u>		-663.83	
Administration Costs	-18.99		
Bank Charges	-5.00		
Affiliation Fee	-450.00		
Post, printing & stationery	-189.84		
<u>CLUBHOUSE COSTS</u>		-861.10	
Electricity	-382.29		
Waste Disposal	-288.74		
Telephone/Broadband	-189.07		
Rent	-1.00		
<u>EQUIPMENT &amp; CREEK</u>		-43.76	
Equipment Maintenance	-43.76		
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			-1,568.69
<b><u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD</u></b>			61,984.77
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 01-JAN-2019</b>			0.00
<b><u>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 31-Jan-2019</u></b>			61,984.77

### **5.3 Hon Secretary**

5.3.1 Discussions of motions submitted (attached) prior to the AGM. (we need to establish the 'committee 'view) .

Each nomination was discussed and ratified prior to presentation to the AGM.

5.3.2 Reminder to Mem Sec to supply Hon Sec with number of voting members present at AGM at the start of the meeting .

5.3.3 The unused club computer and ancillaries have been recycled, with the hard drive suitably disabled.

#### **Nomination for Rear Commodore :-**

Shaun Cootes will be offered the honorary position in recognition of his tireless work around the club, always willing to help others and playing such a pivotal role at Lift-in / Lift out every year.

### **Item 6 - Reports**

#### **6.1 Boathouse and Creek-e News Jacky Olden**

**Boathouse** : Nothing to report

**Creek e news** - Nothing to report

#### **6.2 Compound Alan Morrison.**

I've had to replace another padlock to the west compound gate as the old one came apart. The mast rack has once again been secured with a club padlock, and the remaining spare is now repaired and placed in the club safe. Three spaces in the pound have just been taken which leaves five spaces available.

#### **6.3 Maintenance - Dave Stewart -**

Our contract electrician who installed the current system has been contacted to do our annual inspection and 'PAT' testing, however we have had no response so far.

It was noted that the kissing gate on the South Bank footpath is in need of repair.



#### **6.4 Membership -Sue Doyle -**

Sharon Geary Harwood , Ryan Waters, sent their membership packs. Chris Rowlands interviewed and is awaiting his 30 days.

#### **6.5 Moorings. Keith Guy-Gibbens**

One mooring allocated, 4 on waiting list which should be fulfilled once the new moorings are laid. 4 blocks ready to lay on refurbished moorings.

New members Ryan and Ben Waters have offered their services to Keith and Merve to help with the digging in of new blocks once laid

#### **6.6 Pontoon , Slipway, mast crane. Julian Pearson**

Nothing to report

#### **6.7 Equipment and Block Lifter Mervyn Griffiths**

The Ford 4600 blue tractor has now been fitted with a new hydraulic control valve body, this control operates the hydraulic lifting arms and bucket rotation, this new control is now in the correct orientation, eg - pull back on the lever and the lifting arms raise.

On another matter, I have noticed the removal of the old waiting buoy, so be more aware of the correct entrance and exit of the creek. It was reported that buoy No 6 has also been pulled off station and needs repositioning

A directive has been received from ABP that a check will take place early in March to ascertain if our creek navigation buoys are in position and agree with their charts. We did inform them last year that due to the outer buoys being continually pulled off station and sometimes damaged, we have taken them ashore. ABP at the time responded and said they are powerless to intervene.

It was also mentioned that our newly planted red wooden post out by No 7 buoy may have disappeared. It'll be checked out

Merv attended the meeting set up by the RYA at Hythe Sailing Club. It was broadly based on trying to understand common ground between waterside clubs on how to attract and retain members, how to get members engaged and involved with the running of their respective clubs including helping out with maintenance and work partys.

A second meeting is planned in the near future.

#### **6.8 Social Sec - Julian Pearson,**

The newly appointed landlord of the 'Jolly Sailor' has made it known that they may be able to provide a 'pop-up' bar should we require one at any of our functions. The pub are also

willing to allocate us a room with bar should we require to hold any of our functions at their location.

**6.9 Events - Jim Hopwood.**

Nothing to report

**HSE - Nil**

The Hon Sec then thanked the outgoing committee members; Sue Doyle, Dave Stewart, Alan Morrison, Dave Young for their dedication and previous service to the club, by way of a vote of thanks.

Meeting closed 21:32 Hrs

Next meeting - Thurs March 14th 19:00