



MENDIP FARMERS HUNT COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Louis Bridgeman W Payne (WP) Corinne Townend (CT)
Duncan Green (DG) Tim Pullen (TP) Rob Uphill (RU)
Sally Laurie (SL) Sheila Petherbridge (SP)
Roger Lyons (RL) George Pullen (GP)

Apologies: Stuart Clothier (SC) Tom Ireland (TI) John Wedmore (JW)
Tom Osborne (TO) Poppy Martin (PM)

Action

1.0 MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

1.1 Minutes from previous meeting adopted. Proposed by SL and 2ndWB.

2.0 OBITUARIES

2.1 Cynthia Chard and Dave Hellard.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 None.

4.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

4.1 TP reported in TI's absence.

4.2 As per the up to date budget, there is going to be a shortfall of c. £25,000 between now and 1st May 2021.

4.3 Reported that we qualify for a Bounce Back Loan of £25,000, i.e. approximately 25% of the Hunt's turnover. During the first year, there are no repayments to be made. After the first year, repayments are made over a five year period and interest is charged at a fixed rate of 2.5%. The possibility of using this loan was discussed and it was agreed that it would be a sensible way to take the Hunt through to May 2021. Motion proposed by DG and 2nd by RU. All in attendance voted unanimously. TI to action. TI

4.4 Costs are being monitored and closely controlled.

5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 TP thanked various people for organising and hosting fun rides over the summer; the Green Family for Mendip Plains Fun Ride, Ian Saunders / Tom Ireland for the Cheddar Head Fun Ride and the Gould Family for the Cranmore Fun Ride.

5.2 Sadly, no other events have been possible due to the current circumstances. Could consider writing an appeal letter.



5.3 TP welcomed LB to the Committee in his new role as Chairman of the Supporter's Club. He also thanked Mike Heal for all his hard work over the years in that same role.

5.4 TP explained the situation facing the Hunt on 1st May 2021 due to lack of fundraising, the loss of large meets and the pending lockdown two. Clearly, the P2P, skittles, hunt supper/auction, hunt ball are all very doubtful and it is likely that there will be no Glastonbury. It was reported that it seemed the only option available to recover the loss of income would be to sell Bowery Bungalow. This matter was discussed at some length and the general consensus was that selling the bungalow would be a last resort, but might possibly be the only option. TP therefore asked everyone to think about it ahead of discussion at the next Committee meeting planned in early December.

All

6.0 HUNT SUPPORTERS' CLUB

6.1 LB reported that he is trying to get a new Hunt Supporters Committee together on the basis that each person that comes onto the Committee agrees to organise a function in order to spread the load. Agreed that this was a sensible approach.

6.2 Clearly, no major events are possible at the moment but 200 Club tickets are on sale and will look into an online auction.

7.0 MASTERS' REPORT

7.1 GP reported that autumn hunting had been difficult but it was great to see good field numbers and indeed new faces with a happy atmosphere prevailing. Clearing country does not get any easier and two days a week during autumn hunting is probably the new norm – do less days but better.

7.2 All is up together at the kennels and Mathew is running things very efficiently. Number of hounds gradually being reduced.

7.3 Not an easy start for Mathew or CT but both are doing the hard yards which will pay off.

8.0 FALLEN STOCK

8.1 SP reported that fallen stock was ticking over nicely and that she was very pleased with the way that Mathew is running the ship.

9.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 LB reported that he has been investigating alternative drainage methods at Kennels and has come up with a plan which would meet all necessary regulations. The proposal would cost £3,000 to implement and should halve the cost of waste disposal – payback period of between one and two years. This was considered and will be discussed further at next meeting.

9.2 DG suggested that we continue looking at possible amalgamations.

9.3 SP encouraged everyone to actually think of ways to raise some money rather than sitting back and hoping it resolves itself.

10.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 To be agreed.