

Rotary Club of Mansfield
Minutes of the Business Meeting - held by Zoom
On Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 8.00pm.

1. Minutes of the previous Business Meeting of 8th December 2020 had been circulated before the meeting
2. To agree as true and accurate records: Agreed
3. Matters arising: None
4. President's Report:
KA looked forward to when we could return to normal meetings. District Conference would be held 1st - 2nd October – probably by zoom. The Hostess was provisionally booked for 5th November. A successful Christmas Party and Courage Awards had taken place since the last Council meeting. Thanks were expressed to Cate and Ray for their work with the Sleigh and David Wilson for taking the Treasurers post following the sad passing of Roger Winson – for which a very moving and well supported zoom celebration of life had taken place.
5. Secretary's Report:
PR reported he had no outstanding concerns.
6. Treasurer's Report:
DW reported -
General Account -
General account balance £8604.51

Subscriptions -
Following review of next year's budget proposals a subscription amount of £175 was agreed by Council for recommended to the Club. Proposed to the meeting by DW Seconded JW. Agreed.

Transfer of funds from General to Benevolent Account -
It was agreed Council will consider a possible transfer of funds from the General account to the Benevolent account at the same time as allocation of funds from the Benevolent account to Service Teams are being considered at the Council meeting due on Tuesday 18th May 2021.

Benevolent Account -
Benevolent account balance £15,612.00
This figure did not include results of the Swimathon or Courage Awards.
It was agreed the budget figures allocated to the Service Teams in July 2020 will stand so any money unspent at 30th June 2021 will be carried forward by the respective teams to the new Rotary year and not reallocated. Council will further consider allocation of funds raised in the present Rotary year for disbursement to next year's Service Teams – this being indicated in time for Club Assembly.

7. Reports and comments arising from:

a) Club Service Team:

KA reported -

Meetings format -

Discussion would take place at their Team meeting on 19th April regarding possible changes to fortnightly meetings, alternative meal styles and other procedures - in line with the Club survey which had taken place last November and presented to the Club in January. Any changes made would be on a trial basis.

Weekend away -

As District Conference was likely to be by zoom there will be consideration of a social 1 or 2 night stay away for any members and partners who may wish. SR would contribute some ideas.

b) Community & Vocation Team:

JW reported -

Budget remaining -

There was currently about £2,588 remaining in the present year's budget. Because of likely increasing unemployment anticipated later in this year it was considered prudent not to spend the full budget at this time but to retain some funds for use later in this Rotary year.

Recent Donations -

Beacon Project - £500 with possibility of further £500 later in this Rotary year

St. John's Ambulance - £250

MIND - £500

Portland College - £250

Old Meeting House - £250

Total donations to date - £3,900

Digital Poverty Campaign -

Associate member Gary Jordan was leading a project to provide refurbished computer equipment for young people who did not have access to adequate computer facilities to properly enable school learning and work placement application. Gary had recently made a presentation to the Club about the campaign and it was hoped members may donate suitable equipment. A donation from the Benevolent fund of £150 to this project had been agreed by Council – not to be taken from the C&V budget. PR reported he had not yet received any notification from members of any equipment they had available to donate.

Litter Picking Campaign -

Aided with the efforts of SR this is going from strength to strength. Requests for litter picking tools were coming in very fast – including many from outside the immediate Mansfield area. In view of this SR was approaching other Rotary Clubs covering these areas to see if they will take on managing and funding these requests themselves. Going forward only requests from the immediate Mansfield area will be met.

A further £250 had been allocated from the C&V budget – now making a total of £512 with well over 100 picking tools having been distributed.

It was proposed SR and seconded JW up to a further £500 should be allocated for the purchase of more litter picking tools. Agreed.

There had been great and positive response from pickers and SR was keeping them in touch with periodic emails.

SR commented-

This project was creating a fairly large amount of administration. He and Sharon were happy to continue if wished. This was agreed. JW was keeping a small stock of picking tools and making some deliveries – but further help in this way could be beneficial if numbers being supplied remained high.

There is a national clean-up campaign coming between 28 May and 13 June and he suggested we look to engage all our litter pickers in a special effort during this period. Perhaps we could arrange for them all to meet the Club via zoom – possibly with a national figure included to speak? Any other ideas would be welcome.

The recently appointed Editor of the Chad, Ashley Booker, has already assigned a reporter to pick up on this project and there will soon be an article in the Chad. The News Journal continues to promote the campaign as does 103.2 during the Friday afternoon spot that SR is doing with Tony Delahunty. The social media campaign that Sharon has promoted is driving people to the Club's website and thus to volunteer to help.

c) Youth Team:

CH reported -

The Young Chef and RYLA projects -

These had not been run by District this year due to lockdown restrictions. JP was however keeping schools informed of what is on offer.

Mansfield Scout group – a £300 donation had been made

Destitute Families - the team would consider requests from any such families whose situation had arisen due to Covid.

Surplus Budget – the team agreed this should be retained for the following Rotary year's Young Chef and RYLA projects – and any other forward projects due to uncertainty about the level of any income in the next Rotary year due to limited fund raising activities.

Litter picking award - ideas for an award to encourage young litter pickers would be considered.

d) International & Foundation Team:

KB reported -

Covid - £1000 of the team's budget had been returned to the Benevolent account for use by the Club's Covid Response Team. This had been donated to King's Mill hospital for the support of front line staff.

Donations - £500 was approved for donation to Polio Plus. Further donations to Mary's Meals, Shelter Box and Mercy Ships were discussed but decisions deferred until more information regarding international Covid needs may be clarified.

Limbs to Ghana – DB said there had been no changes from the previous situation. It is not practical to operate this project at present and also hospitals were too involved in coping with the pandemic.

Fund raising – it was decided to wait until relaxation of lockdown when normal style events may then be considered. A race night could be a possibility – perhaps in early 2022.

Foundation -

HT had reported -

Lend with Care - there had been no change since the last business meeting. Loans were being repaid very slowly. The accounts stands at about £150. It is intended to wait until it reaches around £500 before any further loans are committed.

e) Communication and Marketing Team:

AH had reported there had been little activity due to the lockdown situation. The Club Website was continuing to be maintained.

f) Membership Team:

SR reported -

Taz – was taking a step back from Rotary until her parents can resume child care duties.

Prospective Associate members – approaches to Rachael Richardson, James Twigg, Mark Faulconbridge and Paul Nayland had not been followed up yet due to other commitments. It was suggested that in view of the success of the Litter Picking campaign an event could be arranged for participants to find out more about our Club - with a view to seeking possible Associate membership application.

Membership survey – results had been given to KJ to enable the Club Service Team members to consider proposals to put to Council of any potential changes indicated by the survey which could possibly be introduced to the Club on a trial basis.

Nicky Tomlinson – no further contact had been received in respect of attempts to retain her as an Associate member. PR had now sent a letter advising acceptance of her resignation.

Partners names – PR will make further effort to gain consent for some partner's names not currently included on our website to be made available, as requested by KA.

g) Charter Working Party:

AH had reported a provisional booking had been made at the Hostess for 5th November if Covid restrictions allowed. There was concern as to what numbers may feel confident enough to return and how any still present social distancing measures may affect numbers able to be accommodated. He would discuss with the Hostess how meal costs may be affected according to numbers booked. Some thought was also also needed led by KA regarding possibility of what entertainment may be available and affordable according to possible circumstances nearer the time.

h) Fund Raising & Sleigh Working Party:

CH reported -

The Sleigh - December 2020's sleigh campaign was both challenging and disappointing. There was a general lack of support from members with the same few members coming forward to cover the collection slots.

Some of this was down to the pandemic as members were shielding and therefore not available for sleigh duties. There were just 14 members who made themselves available

to cover an initial 65 slots which made for a difficult situation - although towards the end there were some collecting cancellations owing to increase in number of Covid cases. Very big thanks were expressed to RM who covered all the towing slots except Aldi on Southwell Road which was covered by Terry Partridge.

The whole campaign was even more difficult than usual not only due to her planning and coordinating, but also her covering many collection slots as well as collecting all the collection buckets from RM plus counting and banking all the money. This was hard work and time consuming.

The year had highlighted decisions needed around the sleigh considering it is getting older and requires work to keep it road worthy plus a big majority of members are getting older and less willing or able to cover the collection slots - yet the sleigh remains our main yearly fund raiser. RM advised the sleigh was structurally ok for perhaps the next two years. A lighter and more manageable sleigh would be a big help.

Points which now needed urgent consideration were -

- do we want to continue with the sleigh and how many more years can the club continue with the sleigh as it's main fund raiser?

- although already planning the 2021 rota this will be her fifth and final year as sleigh controller – who may follow on as a replacement?

Suggestions to make December 2021 easier for those members willing and able to help were -

- The sleigh to come out of storage mid December
- Cover 2 Saturdays only in Mansfield town centre with just two collectors and a Santa on each two hour slot.
- Cover only 3 house to house collections with 6 collectors and Santa
- Cover 4 supermarkets with two collectors and Santa – Aldi Southwell Rd, Sainsburys, Aldi Mansfield Woodhouse and Tesco Oak Tree Lane.

All the above is critical to decisions which need to be made of if and how the Club may continue the sleigh as it's main fund raising activity of the year beyond 2021 – and these are decisions left to the Club as a whole to decide upon.

Associate member Matt Harding very generously offered donation of a Christmas themed gazebo which could be sited for Christmas fund raising purposes.

i) Programme and Meetings Working Party:

PR reported there were three meetings needing to be determined before the end of the Rotary year but work needed to start on planning for the next year. It was hoped live meetings may be possible from the start of that time. PB stressed the decision regarding frequency of meetings was critical to allow this planning to be done.

j) Swimathon Working Party:

DS advised the date for the next Swimathon would be Saturday 9th October.

k) Covid Response Team:

SR reported -

Publicity - More articles had appeared in the News Journal. He had done 3 broadcasts on 103.2 to date, with 6 certificates being sent to local people who were supporting others during the pandemic. Members could share any good work for consideration in 103.2's

programme.

King's Mill Hospital - had sent a further e-mail of thanks with a photo for the £1000 donation made to them.

Ladybrook Enterprises - CH and DS had sorted the £200 of food to Ladybrook Enterprises. They said Aldi had been incredibly helpful.

Fund raising - a discussion had taken place about possible fund raising by the Club. KB felt the Club would not be able to run a successful virtual race night or murder mystery as these were mainly winter timed events and doing so now might cut across physical event(s) which may be held later.

l) Just Bin It Campaign :

- as reported by JW and SR under item 7b.

m) Other reports from members with special responsibility:

Courage Awards :

SR reported -

There had been considerable favourable response to the recently held 30th year of Courage Awards. The event was recorded and he could provide a link for this on request. 130 people had viewed the event on zoom. The News Journal is publishing full coverage in it's 6th April issue.

8 Any additional scheduled items:

To advise Team and Working Party leaders for the forthcoming year -

KA advised these to remain unchanged from the present year.

9 Notified items -

a) To discuss possible fund raising ideas -

BBQ – JW kindly offered the use of their garden for a post lockdown BBQ. A possible date could be 11th July.

b) Update on Vice President vacancy –

KJ advised she was having conversations with RM, KB and PB with a view to this role being shared between them.

10 Any other business:

Circulation of Council meeting minutes -

PR agreed these would in future be circulated to all members.

Cate's Walking Challenge -

CH thanked members who had now pledged donations – these now totalled around £1000.

11 Date, Venue & Time of next Business Meeting:

Tuesday 27th April 2021 – A.G.M and Scheduled Business Meeting. 7.45 for 8.00m by zoom.

