

HIGHLAND WOODTURNING CLUB, Club Premises, Munloch Village Hall

Minutes of COMMITTEE MEETING held online by ZOOM on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 6.30pm

1. WELCOME

Present :- Alec Mutch, Geoff Potter, John Ruickbie, Nick Simpson, Mike Day, Errol Levings, David Line, Peter Lawrence, Douglas Stewart, Cliff Sim, Jeff Buttress, Alan Geddes, Gordon Leitch, Duncan Macleod, David Ross, Alan Ross

APOLOGIES: Jim Kelman, Richard Comfort, a number of other members were unable to take part in the Zoom meeting but had given e-mail replies or letters in response to the consultation.

Geoff Potter (GP) welcomed everyone to the online meeting. The Zoom meeting was hosted by GP with prior e-mail invitations and a detailed Agenda sent to all the Club's members. He hoped the meeting would run smoothly and confirmed that everyone would have a chance to speak if they wished.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2020 AGM

Approval of the minutes (which were available in the Members section of the Club's website) was proposed by David Ross and seconded by Cliff Sim. Unanimously accepted by all present.

3. CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION

To give flexibility over future Club meetings. The proposed change to the HWC Constitution is....

Under part 3 MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB of the Constitution, insert an extra paragraph number 9 :-

9. Any meeting may be held virtually or by attendance in person at a notified venue as arranged by the Chairman and Secretary. Attendance at any Committee Meeting, Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting may be made in person, virtually or by signed letter. Any such signed letter shall be sent to the Secretary to be received at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting. Where a Member is entitled to vote then the letter shall indicate their vote and nominate a Committee Member or any other Member of the Club who they wish to vote on their behalf.

This proposal was unanimously approved by all.

4. CONFIRMATION OF CURRENT COMMITTEE

The Club was unable to hold the normal Annual General Meeting. This proposal is to confirm the current Committee membership, until the next AGM, comprising ...

Alec Mutch – Chairman

Cliff Sim – Treasurer

Geoff Potter – Secretary and

Committee members – Richard Comfort, Mike Day, Jim Kelman, Peter Lawrence, Errol Levings, David Line, John Ruickbie, Nick Simpson, Douglas Stewart

It was noted that David Hobson and John Cheadle had resigned and they had been replaced by David Line and Richard Comfort. AM responded to a question that the next Committee meeting would include the election of a Vice Chair selected by the Committee Members.

The current Committee was approved by all.

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5. PROPOSAL TO MOVE THE CLUB'S MEETING VENUE AND PREMISES FROM MUNLOCHY TO THE OLD MARYBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

This proposal is recommended by the whole Committee.

Chairman AM explained that the Government restrictions had forced closure of the Club and a great deal of effort had gone into consideration of how we might be able to restart. The Munloch building was deemed as being unsuitable and a task group sub-committee was formed to consider the options. A more suitable building was found which belonged to The Highland Council. The old school at Maryburgh was for sale at £90k but it was possible to acquire the building under the Community Asset Transfer CAT scheme. To be able to do this it needed a charitable organisation to make the bid. Maryburgh Mens Shed MMS was formed. AM and CS are on the MMS Committee and they are a registered charity. A bid for the building at the cost of £1 was successfully confirmed by the Highland Council on 24th Feb 2021. MMS have gained the free services of Middleton, Ross and Arnott for the conveyance but will have to pay the £2k Highland Council costs. Maryburgh Matters MM – a community organisation are partners in the bid too and are also on the MMS Committee. A planning application for change of use is underway with Maryburgh Community Council as agents, which will save part of the fees. AM confirmed that a grant of £16.5k has been gained by MMS to spend on refurbishing the building. Entry to the building is currently unavailable as the adjacent building site prevents entry. It is likely that transfer of HWC to Maryburgh would not be till January 2022 at the earliest. AM confirmed that there was a great deal of parking spaces on site and nearby and it was anticipated that the times other users used the building would not cause much congestion. HWC would become tenants of MMS if the move was approved.

GP advised the meeting of the full consultation with members. All 43 members have been emailed or had a letter. Family members were each sent voting forms. Out of the 43 members I have had e-mail replies or letters from 30 members.

27 of these have already said yes, yes, yes to all three main proposals. Three did not say what they thought - but will be Zooming and presumably will vote now at the EGM. He had had no noes or adverse comments or reservations about any of the proposals, only thanks for the efforts and for the work which has been put in.

Therefore including the Committee we already have at least 33 members voting yes to all three main proposals (Change of Constitution, Confirmation of the Committee Members and a move to Maryburgh). This is more than 2/3rds of all members for all three proposals.

JR as Safety Officer supported the change of premises. He had been concerned for some time about the Munloch premises – the limited confined space, the poor extraction and ventilation - inadequate safe distances to the lathes and equipment and noise. All these would be reduced significantly in new premises. We could accommodate all the equipment in one room and the high ceilings would have a significant beneficial impact. He therefore highly recommended the move.

NS comes from a medical background and advised that the Munloch premises were completely unsuitable for dealing with viruses, dust and ventilation. Small particles and viruses remained in suspension, did not settle and would need significant ventilation to remove. The moving machinery would worsen the effect and an upward movement of air with the need for high ceilings was desirable. He suggested the new premises would provide a safe and proper place with industrial standard heating, ventilation and extraction.

EL confirmed that we need good heating, ventilation and extraction to prevent infections and lung damage. Recirculation of air was now outdated and ventilation requirements were necessary and would involve heat recovery. We would need expert advice on these measures and perhaps the use of UV. The new premises would provide a much better environment.

There were no questions from members present.

General discussion ensued.

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PL said we need to contact the Munloch Hall Committee soon and confirmed they had been a good landlord and perhaps we should give them a contribution. AM confirmed that the Hall had been very cooperative, had given us a rent holiday and would be disappointed by our moving.

Alan Geddes was assured that we had no legal or financial responsibilities for Munloch. However it was agreed that we needed to alert the Munloch Hall with our proposals as soon as possible so that they might look for a new tenant.

AM confirmed that nothing would be expended any further on Munloch other than the costs of moving.

The move of the Club's premises and venue to Maryburgh was approved unanimously.

David Ross expressed all members thanks for all the tremendous work which AM had made in guiding the Club forward.

Many other members at the meeting and in their responses to the consultation expressed their thanks for all the efforts that have been made by the Committee but especially by Alec Mutch.

6. AOCB

COMPETITION

AM advised that the results of the competition were known. Jeff Buttress had taken first prize in the Beginners, there were no Intermediate entries and the Experienced category had been won by John Ruickbie.

HINTS AND TIPS

NS invited and encouraged contributions to the regular Through the Keyhole and or Hints and Tips from anyone.

7. END OF MEETING