

Minutes of the St Neots MRC Committee Meeting Buckden Village Club, Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Attendees: Caroline Hoy, Chris Langdon, Thomas Hoy, Will Heath, John Kneeshaw, Jackie Kneeshaw

Item	Details	Action
1	Apologies Harold Thompson sent his apologies.	
2	Minutes of previous committee meeting No comments or amendments, and agreed as a true record.	
3	Matters arising None	
4	Treasurer's Report Capital reserves currently stand at £15,610. Our current deficit for the year is £757. Expenditure this month included a modelling day and the club's annual contents insurance renewal, in addition to the usual monthly room and storage rentals. At the committee's request Chris had prepared, for the previous meeting, an estimate of the likely future annual surplus/deficit based on an average of the last three years. The averages were: layout expenditure £944; modelling days £413. If the estimated 2022/23 predictable expenditure is added, this gives a potential annual shortfall of £1,861. This could exhaust current capital reserves in less than 9 years. One resolution discussed was to increase members' subscription rate, but after further discussion, the committee agreed to hold subscription rates for another year. Chris will confirm this decision at the AGM, and alert members to a potential increase in the future.	CL
5	Exhibition Manager's Report Jackie reported that 10 layouts, 2 demonstrators and 8 traders have now been confirmed. Two more traders have been invited. Horseblock Lane needs adding to the spreadsheet, and Bob Pearman's entry needs amending. Demonstrator forms need completing. Packed lunches have been costed at £3.11. Which means that income from traders is £340 and layout costs £256. Jackie will update Facebook. We will need volunteers from the membership to act as stewards. Planning has also started on the 2023 exhibition, with the Priory Centre reserved for Saturday 14 th October 2023 and three layouts already confirmed.	WH WH/CL Jackie K
6	Test Track Update Caroline reviewed the test track with Robert (test track lead) and Roy, and drew up a work plan. Painting and repairs were carried out at the modelling day, and the boards have been re-labelled to make it easier to erect. Roy has constructed a new shelf under the extensions, but they still need further work.	CH
7	Club Leaflet Update John presented the latest draft with revised words and photo for Burbury End. After some discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the words, but a new photo will be taken. A print run of 2,000 was	John K

	agreed.	
8	Top Hat Storage Insurance Top Hat Storage does not provide insurance cover. A suitable lock has now been fitted to the unit and, because of the low value of the contents, it was decided not to take out contents insurance.	
9	East Quay Budget Chris explained that new signage was needed for East Quay for the Club's exhibition in October, and that the cost would be approx. £40. Other (as yet undefined) bits would be needed for it to be "exhibition ready" and asked for approval of funding. The committee asked Chris to submit a list of materials with costs and they would be happy to consider it.	CL
10	Annual General Meeting This year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 31 st August 2022. In preparation, the Election of Officers Form should be made available to members from Wednesday 4 th August, noting that the Exhibition Manager is a 2-year appointment. The notification of members should be sent out on 1 st August, along with an agenda and copy of the previous meeting minutes. A paper copy to be posted on the Club notice board. The agenda to include the following standing items: 1. Apologies, 2. Minutes of the last meeting, 3. Matters arising, 4. Chairman's report, 5. Secretary's report, 6. Treasurer's report, 7. Exhibition manager's report, 8. Election of officers, 9. Club layout reports, 10. Website, 14. AOB. With the exception of the Treasurer, all reports will be verbal. In addition: 6A. Subscription rates 2022/3, 11. Members' layouts, 12. Member recruitment and retention, 13. Social events.	WH WH WH CL WH
11	Any Other Business 1. John raised the subject of member recruitment and retention. The Club is currently not financially sustainable because of low membership numbers. Whilst we are taking steps to attract new members with leaflet distribution, a local exhibition, and enhanced website, we should also be making efforts to retain members, and establish (where possible) why past members chose not to renew. John suggested we review the members list from 3 years ago and contact those who have left, asking what the Club can do for them to make it more interesting and involving. Caroline will review the 2019 list and, with Jackie's help, identify who should be approached, what should be said and by whom.	CH/JaK

The next committee meeting will be held at Buckden Village Club on Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.