

# THE COUNTY BRIDGE CLUB

## Draft Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

1 St James Road starting at 7.00pm

**Present:** Mr Walkerdine (chair) and 74 members

**Apologies:** 11 members tendered their apologies

The SGM has been called for the members to vote on the following proposals:

- 1) **The committee of The County Bridge Club are proposing the purchase of Westbridge Nursery, St Oswald's Road, Leicester, LE3 6RJ**
- 2) **The committee of The County Bridge Club are proposing to apply for Charitable Status**
- 3) **The committee of The County Bridge Club are proposing a change to the constitution to enable us to register as a charity.**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Charitable Status and The Constitution

The chairman explained that the proposals to seek charitable status and to change the constitution would be taken together. A 'yes' vote would allow CBC to proceed with the application. The committee have researched the benefits of charitable status and concluded that this is the most appropriate path to take. The new draft constitution has been written following the EBU suggested model as guidance. This model has been used successfully by many other clubs.

#### Questions from members:

The chairman answered questions from the floor and clarified points raised.

- The proposed constitution has the words 'social club' missing, which are included in the current constitution. 'Social Club' may originally have been included to allow CBC to apply and hold a licence for the sale of alcohol.
- The words 'amateur sport' have been used by the EBU in their 'well tried' model
- The club's solicitor has been given a copy of the draft constitution.
- The current constitution needs updating, whether we purchase Westbridge or remain at St James Road.
- As a charity we can apply to the council for reduced business tax of 80%.
- As a registered charity we would find it easier to register for VAT, and hence reclaim the input VAT on any new premises purchased.
- Charity status gives more protection for trustees
- County Bridge Club is the most frequently used name of the bridge club

A request was made from the floor that the two proposals should be taken as separate items. The members present were asked to vote for their preferred option.

#### Results of this vote (by a show of hands):

The two proposals be taken together	43
The two proposals be taken separately	20
Abstentions	12

#### Results of the vote to apply for charitable status and to change the constitution to enable us to register as a charity (taken by secret ballot):

Yes	60
No	11
Abstentions	4

**The proposals were approved.**

### The purchase of Westbridge Nursery

The chairman gave a video presentation and talked about the new premises. The main reasons for the move to new premises are: private secure car parking, accessibility for the disabled and larger playing areas. The property is spacious and ready for use. The property is affordable, and cash in the bank will cover 90% of the purchase price. The committee has arranged a short-term bank loan until the current premises are sold, or until VAT can be reclaimed. A member, a chartered surveyor in commercial property, has verified that the property offers very good value for money.

### Questions from members:

The chairman answered questions from the floor and clarified points raised.

- The location of the property may mean some members have longer travel time and will be travelling in times of heavy traffic. The timing of sessions can be varied to accommodate member needs as we will no longer be restricted by parking limitations.
- It is anticipated that a 'buddy lift' system will be developed to enable access for all members, especially those who do not drive.
- Many members have expressed concern about the crime statistics in the New Parks area. A member, a retired police superintendent, informed the meeting that New Parks area has 100 crimes more per month than St James Road area. However, the area immediately around the proposed new premises is not too bad. He explained that the fear of crime is greater than actual crimes. Also, the building next to Westbridge is a police facility and is in frequent use, so may offer some protection to the Westbridge building. Others felt that a private car park is safer than walking the streets surrounding our current premises.
- All security features at Westbridge are operated from inside the building.
- There will be a gradual transition to the new premises. A business model has shown that it is financially viable to have two premises for a period. Some duplicate sessions will continue at St James Road and others, including teaching and competitions, will take place in the new premises. The LCBA have already shown an interest in using the building.
- An enquiry as to the proximity of the nearest pub was answered. New Parks Social Club is next door to Westbridge and beer is £2 a pint!

### Results of the vote to purchase Westbridge Nursery, St Oswald's Road, Leicester, LE3 6RJ, (taken by secret ballot)

Yes	53
No	22

### **The proposal was approved.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Subsequent to the meeting an email was received from two members, Mr and Mrs Arnold, who despite arriving with 15 minutes to spare, were unable to find a parking space. A late apology was also received from Mr Ruddock