

Castle Morpeth Bridge Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Trinity Church
Bedlington at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 9th March 2023

In Attendance: Mike Craig [Chair], Freda Simpkin [Treasurer], Ken Reed, Paul Ingoe, Viv Heskett [Secretary].

The chairman thanked Freda for arranging the venue and welcomed Viv and Paul to their first meeting. He also thanked Sheena for her long spell as Secretary and hoped that her recovery continues to make good progress.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of last Meeting: Held on 23rd November 2021 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising: None.

4. Chairman's Report: Morpeth Town Council are no longer accepting our small charity status and as Castle Morpeth Bridge Club is not on the Charity Commission list of charities they are no longer allowing the 20% reduction of hall fees. A prompt application to the Charities Commission is therefore of importance. This will be dealt with in the main business of the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report: An Income/Expenditure statement to February 2023 was circulated. The financial health of CMBC is good at the moment. However, hall fees may rise. The effect of this may have to be discussed at a later date. The final accounts are due to be prepared and certified prior to the next Committee Meeting. Action by Freda.

6. Application to Charities Commission: The draft application form was revised and approved. All Committee members agreed to be Trustees, signed the Trustee Eligibility Declaration and provided personal information to go on the Application. The application will be submitted after the Constitution has been approved.

7. New Club Constitution: The draft Constitution and Appendix A were discussed and approved subject to the following changes:-

Heading: delete "Association Model Constitution" and replace with "using the Approved Governing Document agreed by the Charity Commission and the EBU

The other changes suggested in red were agreed with the further change

Clause 13 (1) Officers (c) replace “shall serve for a term of one year” with “shall serve for a term of three years”

(2) Trustees (c) replace “shall retire from office at the first AGM” with “shall retire from office at the AGM closest to the end of their term”

CMBC members will be informed of a Special General Meeting to be held at St James Hall Morpeth at 6.30 p.m. on 28th March. The Resolution put forward is that CMBC adopt a new Club Constitution to replace the existing Constitution together with Appendix 1 – schedule of Disciplinary Procedures.

Action by Mike.

8. Committee Membership: Freda and Mike are stepping down from their roles as Chairman and Treasurer this year. It was agreed that there should be a campaign to encourage club members to apply to join the Committee. Action by all Committee Members.

9. A.O.B.

a. A Committee Meeting is to be held at Trinity Church Bedlington on Thursday 18th May at 2.00 p.m.

b. An Annual General Meeting to be held at St James Hall Morpeth on Tuesday 30th May at 6.30 p.m.