

Downton Motor Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 29th November 2023



Committee Present – Brenda Harris
John Hill
Andrew Mathis
James Edmonds
Graham Vingoe

Apologies - Richard Hussey

Meeting opened just after 7.00pm at the Willett Arms, Wimborne.

1) Committee Vacancies

- **Chairman** - Adam Holland has offered to join the Committee and adopt the role of Chairman. This was unanimously welcomed by the Committee. It was noted that although Adam has limited experience on the Committee of a motor club, he will be supported by all Committee members who do have the relevant experience. **Action: Graham to contact Adam.**
- **Secretary** – role still vacant. **Action: Committee to keep looking for a suitable candidate**

2) 2024 Membership Fees

- It was agreed that 2024 Membership fees should be held at 2023 levels – a standard flat rate of £30 per annum.
- There was some discussion about a reduced rate for 'SD&P' only participants. This was rejected.
- Applications for membership will be taken from circa 1st Dec. Membership payments will be via credit / debit card through the website.
- Membership cards are being printed - Delivery on 6th Dec. **Action – Graham to send to Brenda with sample covering letter.**

3) Speed Championship

- Andrew briefed the meeting on the good progress being made on establishing the Championship events for 2024. Circa 30 events with the possible inclusion of Curborough as a Sprint venue. **Action: Once a draft list is available then they will be published... Andrew / Graham**

4) Events 2024

- It was noted that the Downton Cuckoo Fair has been cancelled for 2024. There was some discussion about the Downton Sports Centre holding an event on the football pitch which Downton Motor Club.

- It was noted that any such event at the Sports Centre would fall under Wiltshire Council's Temporary Event Notification (TEN) process (means a form to complete - £21 fee to pay). This process has an event limit of 499 people (inc staff, organisers, etc).
- John provided the committee an overview of the 'Transport and Heritage Show' at Wimborne. This may provide one option for a small car display. **Action: Graham to discuss this option with Richard.**

5) Sports Club contract

- There was a discussion about exiting the 'contract' with the Sports Club and Steve Harris (Ex Chairman) subsequently taking over responsibility for the storage and office.
- It was agreed that a 'stocktake' / review of the container was required in early January 2024.
- Note that I misquoted the overall cost of the contract – I said I thought the Sports Centre contract was about £1,200. That figure is actually the membership income for 2023 – got my figures mixed up. **The cost of the annual contract in 2023 was £2,172.... Sorry for the confusion.**
- The residual value of the 20ft container at Downton Sports Centre was also discussed – there was a payment of £2,500 in 2019? A quick search of the internet would suggest the value is circa £800 to £1000. Options for valuation and potential sale will be agreed following the 'stocktake' and check in January.

6) Options for growing membership numbers.

- It is known that club membership numbers are in decline – we should probably expect a further decline in 2024.
- To turn this around we need to consider what initiatives are there that we can use to attract more members.
- This is quite a lengthy topic and will be allocated an hour at the next Committee meeting to define options / responsibilities.

7) Options for reducing club overheads

Two options were discussed by the Committee –

- **Photocopier** – produced 260 photocopies over the last annual cycle with a maintenance contract fee of £297.25. **Over £1 per photocopy in maintenance fees.** If the photocopier was used much more, then the cost may be justified but given the current usage, the maintenance contract is not viable. **Action: Brenda to look at the photocopier contract and see what exit clauses / fees are in play.**
- **Insurance** – if we don't have the container or office at Downton then our insurance policy for contents / liability can be cancelled. Saving of £218 PA.

8) Treasurer

- Andrew Mathius is the new Treasurer. We need to get Andrew's named as account owner. **Action: Graham to contact Lloyds Bank**

9) ASWMC Winter Newsletter

It was agreed that Downton Motor Club would provide two articles for the Newsletter –

- One about Steve stepping down as Chairman + photo
- One about the Awards evening + photos. **Action: Graham to write up the articles by 10th Dec 2023**

10) Sponsorship

- The committee agreed to keep looking for appropriate sponsorship options – e.g. Janspeed, Footman-James Insurance KTEC, OSMO, etc ?
- Sponsorship can be at an event, club or championship level
- **Action: All committee members to keep an eye open for sponsor opportunities**
- **Action: Graham to write to Janspeed, F-J, etc**

11) Motorsport UK – Club approval, etc

- John needs to chase MSUK regarding his Club Safeguarding role. *Action: John to chase*
- We need to confirm that Nigel Samson is happy to continue his role as Chief Marshal. *Action: Graham to contact Nigel*
- It was noted that the roles of the eligibility scrutineer, etc for the Speed Championship Regulations may need to be confirmed. *Action: Andrew to advise if we need to do anything*

Meeting closed at 20.45 pm

Next Meeting – Sat Jan 13th 2024 @ 3.00PM

Venue – Downton Sports Centre