

The Probus Club of Ashford

 Committee Meeting held on 23rd September 2022 at Sandyacre

 **MINUTES**

The Chairman - (President – JS), opened the Meeting at 11.00hrs.

Attending : Jeremy Secker, David Mann, John Hardie, Dave Jones, Don Knight, Mark Vincent, Adrian Cowley, Val Kennedy

Apologies : Roland Benstead

The Chairman welcomed all present and advised the Committee that he had received condolences from Flandres 1 on the passing of Queen Elizabeh II. He has extended an invitation to them for our Christmas Lunch on Friday 9th December at Sandyacre.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

**Matters arising from these Minutes.**

A cheque for the Past President’s Charity in the sum of £500 has been handed to PP MV. He has been trying to arrange with the Royal British Legion a meeting to handover the cheque, but they have asked for it to be sent to them in the post. This was approved by the Committee.

**REPORTS**

SECRETARY: We had a Membership application from Jenny Taylor which was discussed and accepted by the Committee. We have received another enquiry from a lady about our coffee mornings, details of which were sent but no further communication. VK has spoken to the other lady Members regarding the Probus Scarf and has made further enquiries to see whether there is anything else available as an alternative, but has been unsuccessful. The Club Rules and Constitution have not been updated since April 2009. VK and JH agreed to prepare suggestions of how it they should be updated, to be discussed at the next committee meeting. We need to increase our Membership and the Committee are asked to give this some thought and bring suggestions to our next Committee meeting in November.

TREASURER: The Treasurer reported a balance of £3328.83 in the Current Account, together with £184.99 cash in hand. Out of the Current Account will come the cost of speakers, sundries etc. Thirteen more subscriptions have been received. The President’s afternoon tea raised £273.31 (plus a further donation). The Club Insurance is due next month and this has risen by 10% to £71.92.

WELFARE: MV advised us that Roland Benstead, David Yardy and Bryan Strange, all have Covid. Lewis Bowles was rushed in to William Harvey Hospital with a collapsed vertebrae. He was transferred to Kings College Hospital where he has undergone surgery and is now awaiting a place in rehab in Canterbury. Derek Duchemin has had a second stroke and is unable to attend meetings at the moment. Des Sladden is receiving palliative care and won’t be returning to the Club. We were advised that Ken Cobbett has passed away and send our condolences to his family.

DINING STEWARD**:** AC advised that we are back to the position we were in in 2016 regarding numbers attending lunches. We were averaging 24/25 in August but there are only 17 for lunch this month. VK has sent out an email asking Members to book in with AC by telephone or text by the Monday prior to lunch. We need to increase numbers at both coffee mornings and lunches. Committee members  were  asked to  consider  ways to  improve attendance , with the aim that dinning  and coffee morning  attendance will also be considered in depth with membership  at the  next  meeting. It was suggested that ladies should be invited to attend lunches and encouraged to become Members.

SPEAKER SECRETARY: RB has arranged the following speakers:-

October – Doctor at Sea, Bob Cruthers

 November – Kent on a Plate, Amanda Cottrell OBE

 January – Food Additives and Colouring, Joy Hardinge

 February – The Disastrous Consequence of a Wrong Decision, David Surridge

 March – Life Inside, John Mills

SOCIAL EVENTS AND OUTINGS: The outings to Ramsgate Tunnels, the Vineyard and President’s Afternoon Tea were all well attended. The Medway Cruise will take place next week. JS is planning a visit to the Battle of Britain Museum in Hawkinge probably in October. JH will look into the possibility of a theatre trip, either to the Marlowe or a London Theatre. He suggests that we open this up to other organisations in the hope that we may be able to fill a coach.

HOLIDAY LOCATIONS: DJ has almost completed the itinerary for the Probus Holiday next year. Once the final adjustments have been made this will be sent out via email to all Members together with a booking form. We will be based in Chester for 5 nights (6 days). The dates are 16th to 21st April 2023 and the cost will be £675 per person to include full English Breakfast and three course evening meal. There will be a surcharge for a single room (at present 6 are available on a first come basis with the price increasing thereafter). DJ would like to have numbers by mid-October.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: DM is trying to agree the menu with Sandyacre. In order to keep the cost per head down, it was agreed that the cost per ticket would include a welcome drink and a raffle ticket. Any drinks with the meal would be ordered individually from the bar. It was suggested that when placing menu choices, Members could pre-order their drinks. Maybe an indication of the bottles of wine available would be helpful.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: AC proposed that we make David Yardy an Honorary Member. This will be discussed by the Committee and covered at the AGM. AC also enquired about the Probus Magazine. Apparently this is not being published at the moment.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.10hrs.

The next Meeting a will be at 10.30 hrs on Friday 25th November 2202

Secretary President