

Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday, 5th March, 2024

Present:

Richard Downs
Marilyn Downs
Steve Bray
Mike Thompson
Sian Jones
Richard Walton
Simon Drakley
Laura Downs

1. Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
2. Apologies for absence were received from: Sue and Piers Beeland, Graham Booth, Alun Pari Huws, Elfed Jones
3. Minutes of the previous meeting (30.1.24):
The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.
Proposed: Richard Walton Seconded: Mike Thompson
4. Matters arising:
There were no matters arising that were not already on the Agenda.
5. Treasurer's Report:
Simon reported that there is currently £4,880.82 in the bank account.
 - Condition Survey – This has been booked for the 18th March and it will cost £495.
6. Boatswain's Report:
 - Maintenance work – Simon reported in Graham's absence. All is progressing well and a good team of volunteers is turning up on Saturdays.
Graham has a list of objectives that he has compiled and is hoping to complete this before April 20th when we are expecting a visit from the Lifeboat Enthusiasts' Society. Wally raised a point that possibly the temperature is too low for the right finish with varnish. Mike T has prepared a poster to remind everyone about the right temperatures and Sian offered to have it laminated.
7. Proposed Sailings/Events for 2024 RNLI Bicentennial
 - Graham has prepared a draft table of Sailing Dates for the season and it has been checked by Simon and Alun for dates that they are available. Once confirmed, this will then be put onto the website so that members can book onto sailings.

- Baton Relay - The proposed date for this could now be 7th July which also fits into the proposed sailing times. It will take place in Cemaes Bay with Moelfre and Holyhead lifeboats exchanging the baton. Simon will liaise with the coxswains at Moelfre and Holyhead about the arrangements.
- Extended Trips to Holyhead and Moelfre will be organised into the sailing schedule.
- Proposal to row to Dublin
Richard presented the meeting with an email from Dr Stuart Turnbull who had put forward a proposal to row CHA to Dublin with a special crew. It is an interesting and exciting idea and there was careful consideration of the feasibility of the proposal. After discussion, it was eventually agreed that the Boat Club could not take the risk given the significant age of CHA and the many unknown aspects of undertaking such an adventure. It was decided that Richard would speak to Stuart in the morning to explain the decision of the Boat Club but also to thank him and extend an invitation for him to visit and possibly take part in some of the planned activities for rowing in the Cemaes area.
Richard thanked everyone for their input and careful consideration of the the proposal, with particular thanks to Alun for sending his thoughts via email.
- Rowing Competition – Simon will continue to pursue this idea with Holyhead and Moelfre.

8. Secretary's Report:

Marilyn reported her correspondence with the RNLI via Suzy Hodges to invite the local RNLI volunteers to liaise about the Bicentennial events.

She has also been writing letters with the aim of finding a suitable site for a future CHA Boathouse. The possible sites she is contacting are Neuadd Farm, the National Trust, and the Coastguard site off Marine Terrace. Simon also suggested approaching the Gadlys. Once a suitable site can be located, then the project can be explored as part of a 5-10 year plan which will require significant grant funding. Marilyn will report back on progress at the AGM.

9. Membership Secretary's Report:

Sian reported the membership numbers are the same as reported at the last meeting: Full 36 Friends 18

10. Publicity / Social Media:

- Publication of 2024 Sailing Dates – Graham has prepared a draft similar to last year and has sent this to Simon and Alun so that possible sails are only published where a Coxswain is in attendance.
- As reported at the previous meetings, we need new posters in the noticeboards, with current information about the boat, winter maintenance and new sailing dates, etc. Marilyn will do this with Sian's help once the final sailing dates are agreed.

11. Future events:

- Lifeboat Enthusiasts' Visit 20th April - 2.00pm
Routine maintenance will take place in the morning and then The Firs will be prepared for the visitors, who are arriving in the afternoon following their trip to Moelfre. After viewing the CHA and being entertained by a short talk/presentation, light refreshments will be provided.
- Summer Lunch or Dinner Event at Lastra Farm - Laura Downs has made contact with the venue and will explore possible dates for Friday evenings, Saturday lunchtimes or Saturday evenings in June/July.
- Visits to other sailing clubs to recruit new members. Mike Thompson is already booked to give a talk at Holyhead Sailing Club on Thursday, 14th March. Wally offered to attend and support.
Steve Bray requested that the Club could purchase another banner for these visits at a cost of £100 (plus VAT) from Signs and Designs. The Z folds could be ordered at the same time. This was agreed.
Marilyn will write to other local sailing clubs requesting Boat Club visits.

12. A.O.B.

- Marilyn raised the need to have some fundraising activities, e.g. Quiz Night, Cheese and Wine. Simon offered to explore the idea of a talk in the Village Hall with Dai Davies and with refreshments provided from Y Wygr Fish & Chips.
- Storage of the Carnival marquee at The Firs was discussed, but it was agreed that it was too large and that the lease conditions prohibited this.
- Mike T asked about putting RNLI badges on the side of the CHA. It was agreed that the RNLI flags should be painted. Simon reported that Ffion Drakley has offered to paint the name.
- Wally reported that Cemaes Lions have a lock-up that is being cleared. He would ask Graham to look at the contents to consider if anything is useful for the Boat Club.
- Laura asked about progress regarding the memorial plaque. Simon reported that this is waiting to be engraved.
- Mike Thompson reported that David Williams had spoken to him about Sea Safety Day with a request that could he come to one of our meetings and talk about it. It was agreed that this was not necessary and that Marilyn would send him an email response as the original intention was just to liaise with and involve the local Cemaes RNLI volunteers.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date of next meetings:

AGM - Tuesday, 2nd April, 7.00pm The Vigour
Tuesday, 23rd April, 7.00pm The Vigour

MD 10/3/24