



Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society

Hon. Secretary LS Martin Longbottom

-% RNARS HQ Shack, Building 512, HMS Collingwood, Newgate Lane, Fareham, Hants, PO14 1AS

MINUTES

Committee Meeting Thursday 06 May 2021 - 19:00, held via Zoom VTC [Covid-19 pandemic - Shack remains closed.]

1. Chairman's opening remarks

Meeting declared open at 1916hrs, the Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Present :

David Firth, M0SLL (Chair)	[DF]
Joe Kirk, G3ZDF (memb. sec.)	[JK]
Kevin Lamb, G4BUW	[KL]
Martin Longbottom, M0EHL (Sec)	[ML]
Mick Puttick, G3LIK	[MP]

2. Apologies for absence

Nil received

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The previous meeting minutes have been circulated, the chair asked if anyone had any comments.

There being none it was proposed to accept the minutes.

Proposed JK

Seconded ML

4. Matters arising.

Nil

5. Secretary's report

Included below

No social activities so they're not permitting amenity holders

H&S rep on site to get on side for passes

Gas bottles

6. Membership Secretary's report

Included below

New members are coming in but there are members being lapsed during these periods as well.

The chair wanted to get an updated list in time for the next newsletter.

JK also remarked that he's also got people who are SK still paying subscriptions, (possibly as they had a joint account), and people who have resigned also still paying.

7. Treasurer's report

No report received

Following the Treasurer's Report:

It was remarked that the treasurer's report was important, and no report was a shame. This may be due to the Treasurers' work commitments. It was also remarked that it may be a put off for those who have to wait through the whole meeting in order to deliver

a short report. DF agreed to phone him to see if he was well, and ensure we are keeping in touch with our committee members. It has been a tough time and it's worth remembering that.

8. Quinquennial direction plan and strategy discussion (proposal)

ML introduced the concept of having a significant review (effectively a 5 year plan) - intended to be a long term one, whereby we can bring a big list of things to look at and thoroughly investigate if our setup works for the long term future. These can be looked at as individually by the committee or a working group of members. The desire is to generate interest and passion in looking at this, as well as getting everyone to contribute their ideas of what this should include.

Some suggestions that were mentioned included: Overall maintenance planning (and the way it's expected to be done by Collingwood), Shack, Outreach activities, recruitment, memberships, defraying of costs (such as advertising to cover newsletter costs)

A fairly long list of things were suggested as possible starting points for possible in depth discussion.

DF wanted to get a list of things that would act as a round robin starter, and allow others to contribute their own ideas.

Overall the committee was supportive of the idea, but it would take a while, and need proper input from everyone. It was asked that we simplify the naming to five year plan and review.

9. Collingwood Sitrep

No change to the status of Collingwood - H&S person may be a useful point of contact for supporting gaining access, though in the end we may still need to contact Ex-Officio or XO Collingwood.

10. Managers's Reports

a. Shack Manager

No report received

Steve had previously mentioned that heating controls had been fitted to the boiler room of the building. ML stated that the data link for this is a wifi antenna right underneath our T2 antenna, this could cause problems in the future!

DF sensed that he may already have smelt the potential (melting, co-ax!) issue, but that we couldn't really do anything about this for now.

ML also stated he's slacked the tension on the damaged mast winch, the mast appears to be ok.

b. QSL Manager

Nothing to report - No further updates for the present.

c. Web Site

The death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh was reflected on the website with an image tribute during the mourning period.

DF added that there would be items added to the newsletter on this along with a copy of the letter of condolence sent to HM The Queen by the chair on behalf of the society.

ML - proposed a vote of thanks to the chair in taking on the task of writing the letter on our behalf.

Seconded by KL

d. Area Rep Coordinator

No report received

e. Commodities Manager

No report received

KL mentioned looking after members and generating revenue and enquired if we were still in a position to produce and sell commodities. How important is it that this is available to members, as an example KL has logbooks and t-shirts. If it is important can we get back in production then? ML mentioned there may be alternative suppliers that could be used if we are having difficulties keeping in touch with the existing ones and gave the example of one he had identified in Stoke road, Gosport which is local and has a range of customisable options if it becomes necessary.

DF mentioned that one of the key areas that allows us to defray costs is the commodities and that Mike had undertaken a significant review of pricing when he took over. But we are in a difficult position because we can't get supplies with the additional complication of not being able to access stocks held in the shack, and payments being sent by cheque which are only valid for a certain amount of time, 3 months, and this compounded the situation. That's why Mike called a halt at the time. If what you are suggesting is we upgrade the setup, such as online payments with online supply?

ML mentioned that there is a positive benefit to the society promoted on t-shirts too.

DF agreed with KL stating that the situation has gone on for quite a time and we could look at possible alternatives. KL pointed out that Mike had done a really good job, and we need dialogue with Mike to continue this.

ML mentioned that he hadn't been aware of the possibility of cheque issues, but that it did make sense the difficulties mentioned, especially if there is then a follow up problem of being able to pay it in to the bank in the circumstances. DF agreed it wasn't a

pleasant position to be in and that was why Mike had called a halt and sent any cheques back. The further problem had been that the supply chain had broken down because of lock down. It doesn't stop us thinking about getting ready to look at getting things going again.

ML agreed to touch base with Mike.

JK mentioned that paypal was an easy way to get payments, and was one Doug Bowen had previously used and it was easy.

ML stated that one way may be to get buyers to simply pay the cheque in directly at their local bank, rather than posting it to us, if that was their preferred payment method. I'm reluctant to limit us to a single payment, as that precludes those who may not have.

JK did state it might not be a good idea to accept Bitcoin, as this would be complicated!

11. Notified Item of additional business

DF discussed an urgent personal matter with the committee.

12. Date of next meeting

Agreed on 17 June 2021 1900

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2110 hrs

ANNEX A

SECRETARY REPORT

I have continued keeping an eye on the state of the shack, along with Steve. A set of H&S rounds were also carried out on the building, which identified some gas cylinders. As is common practice, when such activities are carried out they will look in unlocked cupboards, drawers etc. In this instance they found what they thought had been materials related to hot work activities, as they found a burner head. (The sort plumbers use for soldering large pipes). Thankfully it appears that they realised that the head was brand new and had never been used. But I was contacted by Dale, the building manager, for an explanation. I gave my assurance that we have never carried out hot work activities without following the correct procedures and gaining relevant permissions. In any case, the only time such activity has been carried out, it was by an appointed contractor, rather than us. It's almost certainly the case that accommodation blocks have a few gas cylinders in the bergeries of people on course! The boiler has been fitted with a remote monitoring and safety system, this automatically turns it on as well as having a gas detection which will isolate the supply in the event of a leak. It appears that this is using a wifi p-p link, and I don't think the contractors will have considered the effect of the adjacent aerials causing interference. It's something we may well hear about once we can use the shack again. This does mean that the heating has been running again, which will have been beneficial over the most recent cold snap.\

With regards to amenity passes being issued - at the present time this remains highly unlikely and we're probably going to see this running into the autumn term. The establishment is at capacity, and there is no appetite to allow anyone un-necessary in. I have surmised that there may also be additional welfare considerations as Phase 1 training in particular is covered by inspections by the likes of OFSTED.

What this means is that we're unlikely to be able to plan on holding the AGM on site either at the moment. I have been seeking some contacts on alternative establishments, Block House in particular has a conference room/centre which may be bookable, and would be far less affected by it being in a training establishment. As the Chairman alluded to last time, we are seeing access becoming available for other establishments. However, COLLINGWOOD have particular reasons to stick to their current rules.!

Maintenance access is of utmost importance, for us and really the establishment as well. I have been given the details of the H&S person, and it is him we really need to put our case forward. If we have his support on the grounds of needing to carry out required work, then hopefully we should be able to gain access. It is unlikely that this will be in the form of a permanent pass though, more likely me organising to admit people when we can plan this in. However the first step is getting support, and their endorsement and recommendation will hopefully help sway the command of our need to gain access.

Martin MOEHL

ANNEX B

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

Membership Secretary's Report Committee 06 May 21

Membership Changes since Spring 21 Newsletter

New Members		
Robert Houlston	G4PVB	5129
Peter Forshaw	G0JJI	5130
Lynda Jopson	G6QA	5131
Steve Sugden	G4GCS	5132
Austin Vaughan	2E0MNV	5133
KB Tang	M7KBT	5134
Ray Milne	MODDK	5135
Re-joiners		
Will Beattie	GM0HKS	3600
Tony Walker	G0UTP	4085
Changes		
Resigned		
Silent Keys		
Jack Anthony	G3KQF	
Brian Davies (lapsed)	G1DEO	
Derek Sinclair (lapsed)	SWL	
Eric Johnson	SWL	
Herman Van den Berg	PA3BFH	
Dick Evans	G0RPX	