

Hexham Rotary

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 19th October by Zoom

Present; 14 Club Members, Apologies from Kim Alexandra, Ben Herdan, Rita Marrison, Brian Massey, Stephen Middleton, Andy Rigg, Michael Saxon and Peter Wood.

35. The minutes of the Business Meeting of the 9th March 2020 were agreed as correct and signed by the President.

36. Matters arising.

- a. A card reader for donations has been obtained and is available for use. In use it needs to be used with a smart phone which provides the connection. It cost £39 and takes 1.75% of money collected.
- b. It was noted that the Covid 19 pandemic had caused all the events listed in the minutes to be cancelled or postponed including the Business Meeting scheduled for the 11th May.

37. President's Items

- a. He announced that Hexham Rotary had received a Silver Citation from Rotary International for meeting the qualifying standard in the last Rotary year. The certificate was presented to the Immediate Past President in absentia.
- b. The President suggested that Lord Best might be a suitable future speaker. Lord Best has offered various subjects and the meeting agreed that "How should Social Housing be made available to the young and old in Rural Areas." Would be a suitable subject.
- c. The President commented on the success of the Zoom meetings and
 - i. He asked members to suggest other good speakers that they could recommend. These could come from anywhere in the world to speak on Zoom. As the system for speakers prior to zoom had ceased, any suggestions should be passed to the President or Secretary.
 - ii. It was suggested that speakers and attendees should be advised that the meetings were being recorded and made available on our website. The Secretary would add a note to the Zoom invitations. A suggestion that our meetings be advertised more widely using Social Media was not supported as it could lead to disruptive elements trying to join.
 - iii. It was confirmed that our meetings were open to friends and family of Rotarians and it was hoped they would join us to hear interesting speakers. If advised in advance the Secretary would include them in the general invitation otherwise members could forward the invite to them.

- d. The President was also looking for ways of making some zoom meetings a social occasion. He suggested a debate might be one possible forum. It was suggested that small groups for debates worked better and a possible format would be a plenary session to set the topic and then breakout groups to discuss it with the group leaders bringing back the results to a final plenary session. Ideally the groups should be 8 or less. The Secretary would explore the mechanics of this and suggest a methodology.
38. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer reported the accounts to date had been circulated.
- a. The Club had agreed the idea of a Bursary for £5000 with Core Music. The Secretary has written to Core Music outlining the suggested terms and is awaiting their response.
 - b. The Club also has £5000 to disburse to help children and young people in the Tynedale area and suggestions for this are requested. Bob Hull suggested an organisation in Heydon Bridge was seeking funds and would ask them to pass details to the Secretary.
 - c. The Treasurer suggested that 90% of the money raised from Not The Great North Run should now be paid to Tynedale Hospice at Home followed by 90% of the gift aid when that was known. This was agreed. It was also agreed to seek some form of publicity when conditions permitted possible also involving Carol Malia.
 - d. Foundation. The report was noted and the President suggested that Christmas Cards could also be sold in Corbridge. Bobbie Middleton would talk to Rita Morrison.
 - e. PR. Rob Hart's report was well received and he was encouraged to prepare a guide on using Twitter for members. One way of promoting this might be an article in Arch.
39. Projects
- a. Poppies. It was noted and agreed not to take part in selling poppies but to look for an opportunity to raise money for the Royal British Legion once it was possible to do so. A bingo evening might be a possibility. Bob Hull mentioned that the Remembrance Service in Hexham was to take place in a very limited form due to Covid.
 - b. Christmas Chronicle. This is going ahead led by Ben, Jan and Rob. Any suggestions or contributions would be welcome. These should be sent to Ben Herdan.
 - c. Fore Street Collections. Club Council have decided that this should not go ahead but, as this will mean a loss of income to our Charity Account, we should make an effort using the website and social media to attract donations via JustGiving. It was agreed that anything collected should go to local charities and our own charity fund. After some debate the local charities selected were Gateway to the Community, Chrysalis and the Torch Center. It was noted that it might

be a small amount this year although we should also promote the collection through the Courant.

- d. Christmas Cards. The lists have been circulated and members are asked to get in their orders for friends and family.
- e. Crocus Corms. The President thanked those who had helped in preparing the packages for sale. Any requests should go to Andy Rigg. The sale of the corms was being put on Twitter and sent to the Courant.
- f. Tree Planting. There was a lack of information on how many and what type of trees were available for planting. Andy Rigg was asked (in absentia) to let the Club know all the details. Meanwhile the President would ask Don Curry if he knew of any possible places for tree planting. It was suggested that Andy asked the Hexham Green Spaces organisation if they had any suggestions.

40. Any Other Business.

- a. The draft calendar for 2021 was agreed although it would be amended if the Covid rules changed. In particular it was agreed that the club should meet fortnightly on Zoom, alternating between lunch time and evening meetings.

41. The President announced the date and time of the next meeting as Monday 15th February 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom.



19th Oct 2020

JL Dumbrell, Club Secretary



15th Feb 2021

M. Middleton, President