

Save Our Stute meeting 11/03/2020

In attendance: DR (in chair), KA, SC, DC, LK, AK, PH, JR, CW, MA, DG, SJ, ST

Apologies from Sam Townsend and Trevor Horner

Minutes approved from last meeting

DR - Directorship announcement

LK and DC to become directors. Vacancies for more directors if anyone is interested.

SC - financial update

Fred has resigned, SC to take over banking and online facilities. Fred's home address is also the CIC's address, looking to get the paperwork sorted to change this.

Bank balance at around £5300 (subject to checking sums that members have and not including PayPal for 80s night)

ST - Committee Liaison

AGM coming up on 30th March

Committee needs to be increased to 14 members in order to ensure new trustees

Once in place, abolish the rule that says committee members need to be ex BR employees

Historically, the trustees have been 3 officials (Sec, Treasurer and Chairman) - will go to a vote if necessary

Hewitt's Solicitors bill - Shaun will ask for official invoice as DR asked who was paying the bill

Selwyn asked the question - what would happen if one of the officials stood down, would they still be a trustee?

ST - there might have to be an extraordinary general meeting if that were to happen

DR - explore the subject of trustees further at the next committee meeting (15/03/2020)

Roof - two major repairs have been done: one for guttering (£1400), one for highest level flat roof (around £6000). Same firm has done both, matter of urgency for second job. ST going to ask about the possibility of paying the firm in two instalments.

Group were then asked opinions about contributing a sum of money towards the roof repairs.

ACTION - Group agreed to £2000 as a contribution with the caveat and condition that things are done with the correct due diligence in the future.

Spruce up (inside)

Lounge has been painted by PPG and volunteers. SJ remarked that a lot of prep had to be done on the day that should have been done beforehand. PPG hadn't really specified exactly what had to be done in which areas so this didn't help but the job has been done to a good standard.

Carpeting- DG suggested to tile an area around the bar to avoid too many spillages on the carpet. PH offered to help with this and offered a carpet sample of the quality of carpet we could achieve at £15 per sqm. Would be glued at £50.

DR gave update of T. Hackworth portrait - JHY has given permission to use a high quality digital image of the original portrait that hung in the Institute when it first opened. PH has picture framing equipment and A3 printer - offered help with this. **ACTION** - JR asked for the image to be sent out with these minutes. Working group to work on this. Ask JHY to come along when this is displayed.

Entrance hall - PPG have sent details of what materials need to be purchased for this.

DR / KA - have acquired images of photos of the Institute when it first opened to be used on display.

Spruce up (outside)

DR thanked volunteers for helping out in the car park on a number of occasions, especially PH who brought extra help.

Fence still needs some work to it. Weed killer needs putting down to prevent them growing back.

Shaun - space needs to be utilised to its full potential, e.g. car boot sales.

ACTION (Institute Women) - look at organising car boot sales in the summer on Sunday mornings. ST to check public liability insurance. AK to sort publicity / graphics

JR - update on lighting. Electrician friend would need scaffolding to install lights and a tidy up of the drains could also be achieved. Spotlight on door could be updated to make it more cost effective. Other spotlights could be moved / changed to make it look more effective. More control over when the lights are used with timers, etc. Existing fittings to be updated.

PH - asked if we need 3 quotes, has contacts that could also quote for work once specification has been agreed.

(ST left the meeting)

Events - after reviews

Quiz night - £40 raised. Good turnout. KA mentioned about having cash prizes rather than wine / choc, etc.

Medium Night - £222 raised. Buffet went well and not too much wasted. More advertising needed in the future, can't just assume we don't need to advertise.

Kids' Disco - last two have made losses, no more happening!

80s Night - Big success, full amount made not known yet. Discussion about sticking to event start time rather than opening early.

Forthcoming events for promotion (A discussion about the effect of Coronavirus on our events took place. LK will keep us updated with her daily updates from the government)

Quiz night - push on FB please

St. Patrick's Day - MA to push on FB

Mother's Day - 4 spaces left to fill

2025 meeting - everything good to go, DR to set up on Tues night, volunteers to help with set up please

Born Villains - how are the club running this? Posters still need putting out

Bomber Benefit - Posters and flyers need to go out. Need help to make bunting. CW offered help as has Sam T.

Ceilidh - MA to sort tickets

Midnite Blue - SC to follow up with band members as to what's happening. £7 ticketing.

New events

Murder Mystery - 4th July. Booked for £250. Will offer pie and peas. 70 people max. Ticket price £10? Set tables up according to group sizes. Costs £250. Format straightforward. Women's Group to sort.

Brass concert - Cockerton and Trimdon confirmed, hopefully Ferryhill will confirm as the third band.

Proposal of events as part of the HAZ festival in September

11th - 20th Sept this year. Each area along the S and DR line to host something. Hopefully we can put on an exhibition at The Stute as we did for the Works reunion. CW to curate a display.

Meeting updates

Institute Women - Murder Mystery Night was mentioned and is already booked. Kath Regan from STC wants the group to be involved with a community arts project for VE day in association with Greenfield Arts. Will attend next meeting.

Chamber of trade - met at The Institute on 25th Feb: Need more businesses on board. Want to put on a summer fayre at The Stute. Booked for end of June. IW will provide refreshments and tombola stalls, COT to advertise for other stalls.

Committee meeting - meeting postponed due to decoration of Hall.

Friends of S and DR - Replica of Royal George - Darlington BC have jumped in with the feasibility study money of £4500. Looks like they want it in Darlington.

Need to keep an eye on the Heritage Line and what's happening with J. Ruffer as we could benefit.

Brusleton Incline Group - (PH) Clean-up of area around signal on Byerley Rd has been completed and sleeper stone work has started. SOS group to put in an amount to put towards improvements there.

(£200)

SHA - no meetings have been held.

AOB

Coronavirus - need to follow advice from government. May need to reschedule events. Most events are low outlay but the beer festival would be the big one - hang back on this until we know what is happening.

Signage - AK suggested new signage to tie in with newly decorated areas. Steam train plaques? **ACTION**

AK to look at designs / costings.

LK - competition to name hall and bar. Needs bringing up again at committee meetings. Names to reflect the past history of the building.

SJ - Mentioned sign on lounge door, needs looking at but there is damage to the beading. **ACTION** - SJ and AK to work together to remedy this.

Darlington Monthly Magazine editorial Piece - group to explore the content of the magazine and decide whether to take them up on their offer. **ACTION** - AK to reply to the messages on the FB page.

60s/70s night - CW mentioned that people have been asking about 70s night - could we use the same format as 80s night?

50s night - AK suggested a 50s night, knows people that could help with this through car clubs.

Soul / Mowtown Night - DJs have offered July 25th, need to check calendar

Chair for next meeting: TBD