



Minutes – Committee Meeting

Saturday 5th April 2025

Present: Jenny Hydes (Chair), Roger Pearce (Secretary), Sam Dauncey (Treasurer), Carolyn Hill (Membership Secretary), Joan Russam, Ann Chelley & Janet McCombie plus Francis Walker (Finance Working Group).

There were **17** Members attending as observers, the details of whom are attached to these minutes.

The Chair welcomed those present and thanked Roger and Joan for standing in for her during her holiday absence.

1. Apologies for Absence

Keith Hall & David Allan.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2025

The minutes had been circulated to all committee members. They were approved unanimously and then signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Reports on contact with local management

a. Meeting with Gaye on 28.3.25 (Roger)

Roger presented the report from this meeting, which dealt with outstanding matters raised at the March committee meeting.

The notes from this meeting are attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

Action: Speak to Gaye re (1). What is the Manager's Fund; re (2) The lack of support for any changes to The Library; re (9) the belief that the EV project may have re-commenced; re (10) the general concern that the reasons for the changes concerning the cleaning services were not clearly communicated to the affected residents.

5. Treasurer's Report (Sam)

a. General

As well as a subscription we have received £132 contributions from non-resident Bridge players. This makes our cash balance £3410.18. We also still hold £377.14 on behalf of the Bridge Club.

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Later today I expect to pay £45 to Vic Oliver for replenishing our stock of condolence and welcome cards.

Action: Following a discussion, it was agreed that in future the Treasurer may meet any bona-fide requests for payments up to £250 without prior authority from the Committee.

6. Membership Secretary's Report (Carolyn)

This month we have the following new residents at Hampshire Lakes.

Mrs Sheila McHale in 59 Oakleigh Square.

Mr Peter Butler in 16 Chestnut Grange.

A third apartment, 6 Ash Mews, has been sold but the new occupant has yet to arrive. So no details as yet.

However, as we have had 11 people leaving or dying in the past few weeks, we still unfortunately have 18 vacant apartments.

Please also note that Petronella McIntyre has moved out of No 73 (rented) and into 71 Oakleigh Square (which she has bought).

As a result of all these changes, there are at the moment 115 Residents at Hampshire Lakes. All of these are members apart from about 12.

My efforts to welcome new residents is taking shape.

Action: As we now have a fair number of new residents, it was proposed and accepted that we would hold a welcoming soiree for them, with committee members and partners paying for themselves, and, dependent on the size of the Bistro bill, a contribution from our general fund.

7. Working Parties and Action Plans:

a. Reception & Bistro Areas (Jenny)

There has been no progress to date, other than that reported at Item 4(a).

Action: Gaye to be requested to expedite action on this project.

b. Finance

(i) Communal Utilities (Francis)

1 New rates issued once again by remote "Energy & Retrofit Manager".

No supporting reasoning for increases.

2 Rate changes bear no relationship to OFGEM rates for April to June Quarter

3 Standing Charge – relates to admin cost of metering – nothing to do with utility cost

No obvious logic or explanation for variations in this charge

Electricity looks like a competitive rate compared to OFGEM rate – but bear in mind that any shortfall in charge to residents ends up as an addition to the Service Charge account.

Heat and Hot Water up by 28.8%.



Hot Water up by 18.3% - Hard to see any logic.

OFGEM rate for Gas up by 10.25%.

Cold water down by 1% - somewhat surprising but water cost accounting made difficult by method of charging the site.

Further clarification needed from Gaye

Action: Francis will prepare a list of queries to be raised with Gaye

(ii) Wellness Centre Income (Joan)

No further news.

Action: Continue to request Gaye to expedite this response, while the Working Party decides on the next step should no response be received by Easter

c. Wellness (Keith)

As many of you will already know, we will be losing two of our Wellness instructors this month. Nathan is leaving on the 11 April and Caesar is leaving at the end of the month. There are Farewell cards you can sign in Reception. If you wish to leave a donation, please give it to Reception in a marked envelope. Annemarie has been busy doing recruiting interviews and I am pleased to say that we are expecting two new members to the Wellness team very soon. One of the new instructors is able to provide, in addition to our normal classes, a Zumba class designed for senior citizens, so watch out for the new Timetables when they are published.

d. Bistro and Social Activities (Joan)

Bistro

Nothing to report.

Entertainment

- Booking for the Harp afternoon tea has been disappointing so far.
- HLE have obtained 50 tickets for "Top Hat" at the Chichester Festival on 12 August and we have only 4 tickets remaining.
- Tickets (25) have also been obtained for another visit to Abba Voyage at the Abba Arena London in March 2026, booking will open soon.
- The working group are meeting on the 21st to confirm the summer programme.
- VE day celebration plans are well in hand for May 8th.

Jenny then informed the Committee that there were many initiatives being planned for the day: e.g. an inexpensive indoor street party, with a meal (using World War II recipes) and entertainment (D Day Dollies). ***Members were reminded that some sensitivity would be required around this event, as for some of our residents the memory of this time would have been far from happy.***



e Maintenance (Roger)

Nothing to report, other than the matter of the phase 2 balcony repairs

Action: Continue to push for urgent action through Gaye.

Janet asked that pressure be put to Gaye on the subjects of replacing the gravel beside raised beds, external fencing repairs and a survey of damaged lowlight lamps.

Further Action: Raise these matters with Gaye

f. Transport (Ann)

We needed to update the minibus timetable without too many changes to the current schedule and you will see this in the April's Activities Programme.

I'm not going to go through all the changes, but I would like to point out two of the changes that might attract interest.

On the Fleet journey, we will include an "add on" to Redfields Garden Centre.

On the Meadows visits, we are also including a visit to our local shops.

We want to use our transport more, organising visits to places of local interest, parks, museums, etc. Any suggestions can be added to our list.

Action: Anne to monitor the usage of these new routes and destinations.

g. Grounds and Garden (David)

This has mostly been covered under our discussion with Gaye, but we are delighted that the linkage between the buggy and trailer has now been fitted, so that it has been a joy to see Mike and Jack speeding around the village, which allows them to complete their various tasks at a much quicker rate.

The swamp (i.e. compost dump) is still problematic but hopefully the measures already described will go some way to improving this.

The way forward for the sensory garden remains a work in progress.

Janet then **proposed** that that the **HLRA funds Mike's budget to the sum of £500 for the purchase of plants** to benefit **ALL** our residents. This was **seconded** by Jenny and agreed unanimously.

Action: Jenny will speak to Gaye to assess the best way that this money can be utilised by Mike.

8. Discussion re the Attendance of ALL Committee Members at this Month's meeting with Gaye, as agreed at last month's committee meeting.

The date and time for this meeting had been previously agreed as **Tuesday 15th April at 2.50.pm in Cottons.**

It was accepted that the meeting would replace the usual monthly one, where Gaye is met by the Chair, VC and Secretary who outline queries raised from the previous committee meeting **but, on**

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this occasion, a full Agenda will be prepared, with Jenny outlining our constitution and introducing the members. Each member will then be asked to outline their individual responsibility within the committee and to emphasise any particular successes or setbacks they may have experienced. Gaye will then be asked to respond to the matters raised at this April committee meeting. This meeting will be fully minuted, as usual, and reported back to the May Committee Meeting.

Action: Roger to prepare Agenda.

9. Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 11.38.am, when Jenny invited non committee members to raise any concerns.

Diana Duckworth raised three items:

- (i) The Library – if moved to the Activities Room, it should be suitably furnished.
- (ii) The Reception Furnishing - needed now!
- (iii) Transport - confirm destination with all passengers before departure from Hampshire Lakes.

The meeting closed at 11.40.am.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 3rd May 2025 at 10.30.am in the Library.