

Putley's Prancing Pony
AGM
Friday 24th February 2023
6:30pm

Present:

David, Harris, Adam West, Jayne Cresswell, Geoff Sampson, Nigel Sweet, Harry Harris, Deborah Davies, Simon Felton, Josephine Felton, Bryan Spencer, Fran Robinson, Norman Stainer, Annie Stanier, Peter Born, Wendy Born, Steve Clayton, Sue Clayton, Isabel Dunn, David Murdoch, Jake Herbst, Katia Herbst, Nick Beaumont, Tim Beaumont, Elizabeth Hunter, Ray Hunter

Apologies:

Andy Booth, Jackie Sampson

Approval of last year's minutes:

Approval granted

Proposed: Nigel Sweet

Seconded: Ray Hunter

Election of Officers:

Chair – David Harris

Treasurer – Adam West

Entertainments – Andy Booth

Secretary – Jayne Cresswell

Vacancy – unfilled

All officers were reappointed.

Proposed: Ray Hunter

Seconded: Josephine Felton

Ops Report

David Harris took to the floor and thanked all those who had helped in the year. He highlighted that more volunteers are required as the Harris boys can not always be there. Helpers required to: set up, work behind the bar, clear up in the evening and the following morning.

Treasurer's Report

Opening bank balance £2,723.98

Closing balance £4,354.60

Net Profit £1,630.62

The Pony is still accepting cash payments and will continue to do so as the split between card and cash is just under half.

The Pony bank with HSBC in a business account that costs £5 per month. Currently, Elizabeth Groves is the primary user. Several attempts during the year have been made to change the banking arrangements but they have failed. Adam will continue to attempt to change these arrangements.

Entertainment Report

There have been several successful nights of entertainment. We have had several genres of music: jazz, swing, 60's Harmony and our own in house folk musicians. We had an away Pony at Aylton Court Barns and a quiz night. It was highlighted that we are not allowed to charge entry to these events but that a bucket is available for people to donate. The Pony then subsidises the donations to ensure the performers are paid a fair fee. Andy Booth is open to ideas as to how we can fund the entertainers and also ideas of who else could be invited to perform. Fran Robinson added that it was great that the folk musicians were joined by younger members of the Pony when they performed.

Financial Surplus

Adam highlighted that the Pony had made a profit of £1,630.62 and he proposed that we kept a balance in the account for contingencies and that we donate £2,000 to the Parish Hall for renovation of the bar area. Adam opened up the floor to any other ideas. David Murdoch asked what type of renovations to the bar were required. Josephine Felton said that they were in the process of obtaining estimates for a new flooring. Harry Harris suggested it would be an idea to make the bar more homely. Nigel Sweet highlighted that any work that they had done would have to be flexible as the room is used for other events. The donation went to vote.

Proposed: David Harris

Seconded: Ray Hunter

Membership

There have been a few proposed changes to the membership of the Pony.

1. Guest membership £1 per guest, per visit. Up to 4 guests per member
2. Validity – now 3 months not 6 months
3. Confirmation of membership is made upon entry, should staffing allow.
List of members to be held behind the bar.

Norman Stainer asked if guests could purchase drinks. David Harris confirmed that they could.

David Murdoch asked if there would be a new list of members every month. David Harris confirmed that there would be and guest members were to be written on the members list. David Murdoch also raised that we got rid of the grace period altogether.

Constitution

The committee have proposed various changes to the current constitution. All 2022 members had been provided with the proposed constitution before the meeting. The reasons for these changes are that it needs to be written in plain English, it is mainly a work of fiction, to remove any irrelevancies and to reduce the length of it.

The main proposed areas of change are:

Membership – introducing the guest membership and reducing the grace period for renewing membership.

Abusive Behaviour – members can be removed if they are abusive to volunteers or members of the Pony. David Harris gave two examples of where this had occurred.

Norman Stainer asked if guest members have to attend with a Pony member. David Harris confirmed that they did and that a member can bring along four guests.

Josephine Felton queried whether members can purchase drinks on the night they joined? David Harris confirmed that they could and that had been another amendment made to the constitution.

The changes were then put to vote. To include removing the grace period of renewing membership altogether.

Proposed: Norman Stainer

Seconded: Harry Harris

Food and Catering

In 2022, there have been various catering events, the Harris Paella and BBQ and Cresswell's BBQ. As yet, the committee have been unable to find outside caterers to come along on the evening and they asked for any further ideas from the members. David Murdoch mentioned Annie at Trumpet Tearooms who do the catering for the Big Apple. Ray Hunter suggested that the Pony could underwrite the cost of outside caterers to encourage food sellers to attend.

AOB

The Pony sign has gone missing, has anyone seen it?

Fran Robinson requested that the Pony sold non-alcoholic beverages for those who don't drink such as, sparkling water and LA beers. It was agreed that more selection would be purchased.

Norman Stainer highlighted that the Parish Hall be referred to as such and not a village hall.

Tim Beaumont asked whether the Prancing Pony could host sport events such as, rugby. David Harris is going to take advice on this due to licensing laws.

Harry Harris said that if people had reservations of working behind the bar he was happy to train them and due to the simplicity of it, suggested it would take five minutes.

The meeting then closed at 7:12pm