

KIPLING COUNTY CARRIAGE DRIVING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

15th November 2021 at 10:00am at The Lucas Memorial Hall, Waldron, East Sussex TN21 0RB

Committee and Co-opted committee members in attendance

Jeni Longley (Chairman) | Valerie Eyres (Organiser) | John Hamilton-Smith | Alison Reilly | Joanne McNicol (Co-opted Secretary) | Debbie Smith | Sine Porsch (Co-opted Trustee)

Agenda Item 1 Apologies for Absence

Peter Horwood (Treasurer), Sue O'Dell (Co-opted Trustee)

Gary Hazell, Mary Hazell, Noah Bryan, Sally and Stewart French, Sue Lamb, Jill Dockray

Agenda Item 2 Approval of Minutes from AGM 15th April 2019

Proposed by Debbie Smith, Seconded by Fiona Drewe, Unanimously approved

Agenda Item 3 Matters arising

None

Agenda Item 4 Chairman's Report

The report of our Chairman, Jeni Longley

“ Well who would have thought back in October 2019 when we had our last drive on a Thursday it would not be until September 2021 we met again and October 2021 until we drove again.

2020 was the quietest year for Kipling since its inception. We had no driving and very little income. We are immensely grateful for the donations we received and these together with some miscellaneous items pushed our income up to over £ 1800.00. Unfortunately there are some costs the group will always incur regardless of how many days we drive and these totalled about £ 1600.00, but added to the depreciation gave rise to a small loss for the year. This is a remarkable achievement and we are grateful to The Cluttons who waived the field rent for the year and this coupled with Peter's good financial house keeping kept our loss very small.

It was sad that we had no social events in 2020 but we hope to make up for that in 2021 and beyond.

The Chairman usually only reports on the previous year at an AGM but as 2020 was so quiet I would just like to say a few words about 2021:-

2021 has brought the resignations of 2 committee members, Jay Bonner our disabled representative and Hanka Davey our Secretary for over 16 years. Both these two have been valuable members of the committee.

I would like to pay particular thanks to Hanka who has worked tirelessly for the Group, always with a smile on her face, whose contribution has been enormous enabling Kipling to grow and move forward.

To drive in 2021 the committee has had to work incredibly hard to complete the RDA's Road to Restart Questionnaire. We took this opportunity, and the compliance with COVID obligations to update and overhaul our administration side. We still have some more to do which we will carry out over the winter.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow officer Peter and say a very large welcome and thank you to Joanne McNicol for all the hard work (and there has been loads) she has undertaken this year. Hopefully we will see her in the role of Secretary again this and next year. (item 6b)

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their support over the last year, Sheila and Val for providing us with ponies to drive and finding new ones. Thank you to our donors and sponsors, our landlord and most importantly you, our helpers and drivers for sticking with us.

Happy Driving in 2022!

In addition to her report Jeni mentioned details of the Xmas lunch on 9/12/21 at the Yew Tree Inn Chalvington and said she looked forward to seeing everyone there.

Val Eyres our organiser gave a report stating that after a long drawn out process it was good to be back driving and that we are now set for next year. We have one new pony (Moccasin) who has passed the RDA assessment and another new pony (Archie) who will be reassessed in the spring next year.

Val then went on to tell her story of how 35 years ago she became involved in the RDA. She told stories of the RDA ponies she has had, her experiences as a volunteer, including winning the volunteer of the year award and showed photographs which everyone enjoyed seeing.

Agenda Item 5 Treasurer's Report

Debbie Smith advised that the accounts were circulated at the end of September 2021 and asked if anyone had any questions regarding the accounts. No questions were asked.

Debbie then read the following treasurer's report prepared by Peter Horwood.

Treasurer's Report 15th November 21

In previous years we have always attempted to hold AGMs as close as possible to the financial year end (i.e. 31st December) so that the accounts become more relevant to the recent past. However circumstances have conspired against us as is known. Maybe next year there might be an AGM in March or April when I'm sure there'll be issues to discuss.

As one might imagine the year 2020, which now seems a long time ago was, from a financial point of view, one of inactivity meaning that there was no income from Driving Donations and equally very little in expenditure. What expenditure there was, was matched by gifts from regular donors to whom we are most grateful.

Similar circumstances have, of course prevailed for much of 2021 but with a flurry of activity in the last couple of weeks.

There has been a noticeable upswing in business confidence as we emerge from the pandemic and so one hopes that there will be a similar increase in fund raising activities. The Group is financially sound which is vital for its longevity and which brings confidence for the future of the Group on behalf of its participants and members.

I would like to thank Debbie Smith for keeping my book keeping on the straight and narrow and in her advice in dealing with the increasingly burdensome form filling. I would also like to thank those volunteers who have been looking after ponies which they have kindly brought along to meetings. We are indebted to them.

Agenda Item 6 Changes to the Committee/Election of Directors/Trustees:

- a) All committee members stood down.
- b) Jeni Longley left the room. Debbie Smith took the Chair to propose Jeni Longley is re-elected as Chairman, seconded by Val Eyres. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer: - Val Eyres proposed Peter Horwood, seconded by Debbie Smith Unanimously approved

Secretary: - Debbie Smith proposed Joanne McNicol, seconded by Jeni Longley, unanimously approved.

- c) Motion: To elect for the coming year Committee Members/Directors:
Fiona Drewe proposed the following are elected:-Val Eyres (Organiser), John Hamilton-Smith, Sue O'Dell, Sine Porsch, Alison Reilly, Debbie Smith
Seconded by Judy Coller, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 8 (there not being an item 7) **Any Other Business**

- a) **Documentation of Group Membership:** Jeni Longley and Debbie Smith explained that we must have a definition of our membership.

Motion: to define group membership as follows:-.

Proposed Voting Members:

- Active Trustees
- Active Volunteers that have completed a Volunteer Application Form.
- Participants over the age of 18 that have the right to vote at general elections.
- Our president

Non-Voting Members:

All other stakeholders and supporters of the Group

Debbie Smith proposed the above definition, seconded by John Hamilton-Smith, unanimously approved

b) Next AGM

Jeni Longley proposes that our next AGM should be at the start of our 2022 season, if possible, before we start driving. Debbie Smith will look into booking The Lucas Memorial Hall in March 2022

More AOB

- Jeni Longley proposed that Simon Griggs, (qualified accountant) continues to independently review our accounts, seconded by Debbie Smith and unanimously approved.
- Presentation of card and garden vouchers to Hanka Davey who resigned as Secretary and from the committee in September 2021 after 16 years. Jeni Longley expressed thanks on behalf of the committee and all Kipling members to Hanka for her hard work and dedication over the years and hopes that Hanka will join us at some Kipling driving sessions and social events.
- Melanie Crouch, Ella's mum said that she is keen to organise some fundraising events and suggested a sponsored ride/drive possibly at Underriver near Sevenoaks, Other fundraising suggestions were a cake sale, coffee mornings, Xmas Fayre, guess the amount of sweets in a jar, garden party, carriages sponsored by a company. Joanne McNicol reminded everyone about supporting Kipling through Smile Amazon.
- Jan McSweeney President of Kipling said how thrilled she was that we are all here at the AGM and that we were able to restart driving after such a tough time. She is pleased that the future of Kipling is looking bright.
- Liz and Josie Cyster thanked the group on behalf of everyone for continuing to support and help the driving aspirations of all of our members.

Meeting Closed by Jeni Longley, Chairman