

# **DANEHILL AND CHELWOOD GATE SOCIAL CLUB LIMITED**

## **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CLUB AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 8 PM. 14 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.**

K Usher took the chair and opened the meeting at 8:14 by welcoming members both physically present and those attending virtually.

He reminded members present that the meeting was being recorded.

### Apologies for absence

None.

### Review of the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 5 June 2019

P Thornton advised that these minutes had already been approved at the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM, but to ensure transparency for anyone unaware of the AGM we would review them again here.

### Additional matters arising from the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> AGM

There were no additional matters arising from these minutes.

### Adoption of minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 22 July 2020

The minutes for the Annual General Meeting held on 22 July 2020 were presented.

J Wright proposed and C Thornton seconded that these minutes were a true record of the meeting. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

### Matters Arising

P Thornton advised that we only had 24 functioning E-mail addresses in the database - he believes that this is mainly due to transcription errors, some were correctable but he wished to highlight that we needed to obtain more accurate E-mail addresses.

P Thornton also discussed the implications of GDPR and consent: We hold the E-mail addresses for two reasons: Formal business E-mails (eg notification of AGM) do not require consent as they are members and we are communicating about formal business as part of their membership; promotional E-mails do require consent and the member can opt out of these at any time.

M Wells was concerned that we had a low number of functioning E-mail addresses and he also raised the point that we were poor at asking people for their membership subscriptions.

C Thornton asked if we had postal addresses - could we send notifications about re-opening and ask them to send us their E-mail addresses? Also have a dedicated membership secretary as the bar staff's primary role is not collecting membership subs on a busy night.

S Gregory asked about getting subs payments online, the option of sending E-mail invoices or similar. P Thornton said that we could have something like that using our PayPal account.

J Wright and S Barnard to update the E-mail addresses.

### Treasurer's Report

M Cottenham gave an updated version of the treasurer's report, and presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019. He had already presented an abbreviated version at the 2020 AGM.

In summary, the year was another difficult one for the Club, and 2020 is likely to be a harder one still with the closures. The club is still a going concern. We are hopeful for a better 2021.

Key figures from the financial report and draft accounts were:

Turnover	£37,722
Gross profit	£19,105
Admin. Expenses	£25,849
Surplus/Deficit	£ -6,774

Of the deficit of £6,744, the sum of £4,735 was attributed to depreciation so the effective trading deficit for the year was £2,009.

Compared with last year:

Turnover down 16.37%  
Bar sales down 12.45%  
Fruit machine sales down 53.04%  
Subscriptions up 10.6%  
Gross profit down 24.9%  
Expenses down 21.02%

The Club's gross profit margin for the year was 46.7%.

Subs amount went up due to the raise in annual subscriptions.

All bar prices have been raised. M Wells noted that people do not come into the club for "cheap beer" any more. J Wright added that we still traded as a club and therefore we wanted to come in at under local pub prices.

### Secretary's Report

P Thornton gave the secretary's report.

He stated that at the time of the meeting, there were 59 fully paid-up members of the Club, and that the meeting was quorate with a quorum of 10 members minimum. There had been 3 new members during the year to date.

Summary of the secretary's report was:

- Planning permission re-granted for the shop and store room change. Nothing yet done with that due to the current circumstances - intention to get underway with this and thus stop things lapsing.
- Events at the club went very well in 2019 and continued to do so up to March 2020 - open mic nights, singing, band nights were all going well until lockdown. Parties continue to give us good takings as well.
- We were able to obtain a grant from Wealden Council due to COVID closure.

- J Wright and a great team of helpers redecorated the Club, and the end result is excellent. Many thanks to them.
- Not a great deal more we can do in light of the enforced closure, but will do our best to take as much as we can across the bar.

### Chairman's Report

K Usher gave the chairman's report.

As this has been an extraordinary year, he thanked everyone for going above and beyond over the difficult last few months: J Wright for leading the refurb and providing P Thornton and K Usher with motivational assistance; G Richardson, S Wright, S Gregory and B Corkett for their assistance with refurbishment; R Wood and J Wood for their work on the toilets, the outside and hallway; N Clark for helping with the plumbing; M Wells for much outside maintenance; C Thornton and J Wood for a lot of cleaning work.

### Election of Officers

P Thornton asked if there were any other volunteers for this year's committee, there were none.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

President	Gerald Lucas
Vice Presidents	Rodney Cobby
Chairman	Keith Usher
Vice Chairman	Julie Wright
Secretary	Paul Thornton
Treasurer	Murray Cottenham

The officers were elected unanimously by those members present.

### Election of Committee

There are nine spaces on the committee, and the following members had indicated that they were willing to serve on the committee: Gary Richardson, Sophie Wright, Robin Wood, Jean Wood, Murray Cottenham, Ben Corkett

The above five members were elected unanimously by those members present.

Sharon Gregory and Mick Wells volunteered during the meeting, and were proposed and seconded by members present, and were duly added to the committee.

P Thornton reminded members that anyone wishing to join the committee could be co-opted onto the committee during the year.

### Proposal to change legal and trading name of the Club

J Wright tabled the idea to change the name of the Club to help with its brand and reputation - mainly to remove the perceived "Social Club" stigma.

The proposal is to call the Club "The Crocodile Club" trading as "The Croc" - the name is historical (we have The Crocodile's old ironwork, and the Crocodile Golf Society is based here).

There was a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of this, especially in light of other changes being made and ensuring any re-launch / re-brand is co-ordinated.

There was a degree of support for changing the name but this required a more targeted plan with branding and re-launch plans to agree any new name.

It was decided that the legal name would not be changed at this meeting.

The trading name would become "Danehill and Chelwood Gate Club". M Wells suggested that a group of people with branding and marketing experience come up with both a suggested name and an action plan to take a rebrand of the club forward and not lose momentum gained by a name change.

#### Any other business

K Usher asked the members present if they had any other business. There was no additional business.

R Mills raised the issue of the border between The Club, Danehill Farm and his property. He is submitting a planning request for some tree felling and also for the hedge adjoining the car park being replanted. The application will be determined by mid-October. There was a discussion surrounding the options for this, and whose responsibility the hedge was to maintain.

M Wells wanted to thank all officers of the club, especially J Wright for bringing about noticeable change at the Club.

#### Closing Remarks

K Usher closed the meeting at 21:50.

Signed as a true record:

\_\_\_\_\_  
K Usher – Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date