**Alresford Creek Boat Owner’s Co operative**

**Minutes of AGM March 3rd 2021**

**Present**

Paul Killick, Bill McKee, Brenda McKee, Keith Phillips, Brian Sinclair, Grahame Hill, Anthony Vickers, Steve Watts, Peter Hyett, Tony Judd, Dave Hayes, Ray Giles, Bernie Hetherington, Simon Clarke, Richard Askew, Patrick Hennelly, Simon McLean, Andrew Blakestone, Nick Wright, Richard Vokes, Dave Rayfield.

1) **Welcome by Chair** Keith Phillips welcomed those present to our first Zoom AGM. He invited all those present to introduce themselves in turn around the screens.

**2)Apologies**

Alex McLure, Rob Maloney, Roger Walker, Wayne Wilson

3)**Minutes of last year’s meeting** Proposed that they should be accepted as a correct record of the last AGM ;

Proposer Tony Judd, Seconder Bernie Hetherington.

All in favour

4) **Chairman’s Annual Report**

**ACBOC Annual Report 2019 to 2021**

The Annual Report covers the period October 2019 to February 2021.

**The Objects of the Cooperative.**

The objects of the co-operative shall be to carry on the business as a cooperative and to carry on any other trade, business or service and in particular provide affordable boat storage and boat moorings, enable boating and social activities and mutual assistance among members ashore and afloat and seek to conserve the environs of Alresford Creek.

**What does being part of a Cooperative mean? The principles are**

• Voluntary and Open membership ( subject to our rules)

• Democratic member control • Member economic participation

• Autonomy and independence • Education Training and Information

• Cooperation amongst co operatives

• Concern for community

**Report**

What a year and a half it has been! Before COVID happened we had a Fireworks party at Jackie’s farm, Christmas food at the sailing club and the Annual Dinner at the Court House on 11th January 2020. We had the usual February renewal meeting in 2020 and the first COVID Lockdown happened.

This meant some boats were not launched, there were no social events and no sailing events but for the lucky few some informal gatherings took place on the water in July and August. All members following all the relevant guidelines of course.

Day to day operation of ACBO carried on. The administration and management of the organisation, including finances and submitting returns to the FCA, registration as a Co-operative, affiliation to the RYA were all undertaken by the committee. There is a lot of administration involved :

* paying bills, collecting money, member communications, updating mooring and storage rules and other policies and procedures.
* Dealing with members – Membership applications – Chasing for money – Dealing with non payers and rule breakers!

**Maintenance and management of the sheds and moorings**

Shed maintenance has included: Clearance of outside storage area, tidying and clearing inside, repairing walls, creating improved kitchen /social area,removing broken vents and replacing with corrugated roof panels, tractor upkeep

Down at the Creek: Mud clearing now allowed, monitoring the comings and goings of boats on moorings and looking after the creek environment.

Mooring Agreement with Colchester Borough Council

Negotiations have been going on since July 2018. CBC is bringing all leases into line. We were ready to sign in 2019 but then the issue of pontoons raised and because of the onerous duties and insurance implications if pontoons kept we regretfully decided to ask the owners to remove them. We have sought RYA legal advice throughout the process. Apart from a couple of points on termination we have pushed back as far as we can go. We wait to hear about the next steps.

**Management Committee**

We have a 5 star management committee! There are 10 members – there have been two resignations this year. We have had roughly monthly meetings until COVID - zoom meetings since. The members of the committee are extremely proactive, continually looking to improve things.

There were 90 members in total in the last period. There are 30 individual shareholders. 33 moorings have been taken up and there are 30 boats in storage.

**ABCOC Policies and Rules**

The Mooring Licence updated in line with CBC mooring agreement. The storage rules have been updated. Health and Safety stamen has been updated. A launch and recovery policy brought in. We have created a slip clearing method statement. WE have worked hard to ensure that membership renewals are accompanied by signed forms.

The deaths of both James Weir and Mike Lynch unfortunately took place since the last AGM.

Thanks were passed on to the skeleton workforce that has been keeping an eye on the security and structural stability at the sheds during lockdown. Mentioned in particular were Brian, Paul Steve Peter Bill and Brenda.

The Acceptance of the Chair’s report Proposed by Ray Giles Seconded by Richard Askew

All in favour

**5) Finances.** Keith thanked Andrew for his contribution to maintaining our finances and keeping on top of spending alongside Paul Killick. His work has been much appreciated. The electronic finances have now been passed to Steve Watts . The accounts have been approved through the accountant. Things that affected the clarity of the financial report were 1) For some reason 2 bills from CBC arrived in one financial year. 2) Outgoings after completion of electrical upgrade were paid for.3) A reduction of mooring fees for 2020 was made by CBC due to lockdown difficulties.4) Roof repair works were carried out.5) A relief grant of £10000 was received.

Several members still need to pay for 20-21 membership and fees for moorings or storage. Keith explained how liens would be applied to vessels/ property after April 1st. Reminders will be sent before this date, with consideration to members difficulties that may have arisen during lockdown.

The Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by Nick Wright seconded by Tony Judd

All in favour

**6) Election of Committee members.**

Dave Hayes requested to stand down, because of family commitments, and he felt unable to contribute very much. Members encouraged him to remain as a source of much valued experience. Dave agreed to “hang around and members were keen to offer him support.

Re-election of those committee members already in situ, and the return to the committee by Peter Hyett, was proposed by Bill McKee and seconded by Ray Giles.

**7) Appointment of Accountant.**

Martyn Lewis has been doing the accounts for the last few years and the plan to re employ him was a unanimous decision by those present at the meeting.

**8)Plans and priorities for 21/22.**

1) Improving the renewal system in google sheets. This is already underway.

2) Whats App group to be created and invitations sent to members interested.

3) Another slip sweeping day to be arranged when lockdown allows

4) A sheds job list to be created so that when able to proceed with works at the sheds, people can take on responsibility for jobs.

**9) AOB**

1)Patrick Hennelly was introduced and accepted as a new member.

2)Keith is to write to WSC to see if when possible in the future we can return to using premises for monthly meetings.

3)Grahame gave the members present the password to members only section of website. This is a trial at the moment. (ColneBuoy21)

4)Members showing interest in attending committee meetings will be invited to future meetings

5) Keith mentioned that further shares may become available to members that are interested. Shares available in tranches of £450 .

6) A member explained that he was unsure about the RYA guidance. It was suggested that the guidance would be circulated and people should do their best to interpret it for themselves. Updates to be posted on the doors at the sheds.

Next AGM it was proposed to wait for another full year for the next AGM

This would be March 7th as this is the first Monday in March 2022. at 20.00

All were thanked for their attendance

Meeting closed after a committee meeting date was set for March 15th 2021 at 20.00 ZOOM