

# **The Friends of Raymond**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Meeting Held virtually via Zoom on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025.**

### **Attendees**

Nick Lake - Chair

Chris R Jones - Secretary

Chris M Jones

Roger Golder

Diana Golder

Brian Seymour

Norman Townsend

Christine Thompson

Mike l'Anson

Michele l'Anson

Tracey Little

Members

Martin Sac

Alan Robertson

Alison Cotterill

Kath Wheeler

Peter Thompsett

Keith Astley

Gill Astley

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Neil Hankin

Mo Murray

Malcolm McKimmie

Diane Robson

Henry Rayment

Francis Stapleton

Colin Wilks

Nick Scarcliffe

Will Hewitt

Graham Newman

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting were presented by the Chairman and accepted. Reports from officers were provided with the minutes.

## **3. Matters Arising and Outstanding.**

None.

**Secretary took the Chair.**

## **4. Election of the Chair for 2025.**

CRJ requested nominations for the post of Chairman for the upcoming year.

NL was proposed by BS and seconded CT. There being no other nominations a vote was taken and NL was confirmed as Chair for 2025.

**NL took the Chair.**

## **5. Chairmans Report for 2024.**

NL provided the Chairmans report for 2024. The year overall had been a rollercoaster with the sad loss of long standing member Alice Lapworth, and problems taking the boats to Batchworth and Brownhills due to insufficient crew, and stoppage problems on the Oxford Canal preventing access Banbury.

On the positive side, as well as completing the refurbishment of Nutfield we had still attended Batchworth and Brownhills, taking the gazebo by road, with good returns from the stalls at all shows. Thanks were due to all who have volunteered with the charity in the many roles this year.

And amongst other highlights of the year was the introduction of two new committee members: Tracey Little as treasure, and Michele l'Anson as membership secretary

## **6. Accounts, Treasurers Report**

TL provided the Treasurers Report and 2024 accounts that were accepted by the AGM.

Income for the year was £7994 and expenditure was £5670 resulting in surplus of £2324. Previous year showed a large deficit due to the large scale repair works on the boats though these were supported by higher donations including the Historic Boats Grant.

Boat maintenance significantly reduced to £1209 in the year from £12772 in 2023 and boat operating costs showed slight reduction to £1990. Other costs were in line with previous year.

The balance on the accounts at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was £6506 and with the fixed assets of the boat valuations from 2021 the total worth of the charity was £81,821.

Balance in the accounts at 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 was £5840 after recent expenditure on insurance with £3000 currently held in the savings account.

During the year though income was down overall the usual levels of expenditure on the maintenance of the boats was sustained without any detriment to the boats.

HMRC Gift Aid and GASDS claims brought in income of £973 in the year and donations were notably provided through sales stand of NT.

## **7. Sales & Marketing Report**

BS provided the Sales & Marketing report that was provided in the papers. The year has been very busy again with good sales and the need for more assistance on the stands at the main events.

Thanks were also expressed to all those who assisted on the sales stand in 2024.

## **8. Membership report**

MI reported that Membership is holding up well with 87 paid-up memberships in the year with 5 new members and loss of 9 which were all expected. 34 sole memberships are signed up for 2025 and 19 joints with several more renewals coming in.

Question was asked if leaflets could be provided for distribution at shows and passing public and these are available. A further question was received in regard part year membership and was charity policy explained by the Chairman.

## **9. Boat Maintenance plans/schedules for 2025.**

NT provided the report on the boat maintenance carried out in 2024 and his report was provided in the papers.

Works with the extensive works to Nutfield cabin were noted. NT has built a ladder to allow access to the hatches on Raymond from the towpath which was welcomed.

The boats are now well protected with pumps in place, heaters in situ and clothed up. New top cloths were discussed and will be priced.

Docking Raymond will take place on easter weekend and will include timber work where areas of rot have been noted. Volunteers are needed for this weekend

The boats have received many compliments over their improved appearance this year and NT thanked everyone involved for their assistance with boat maintenance during the year.

## **10. Shows & Events 2025**

NL outlined arrangements for the boats to attend various shows in 2025 which have been posted on the website and social media,

The boats will attend the new show at Batchworth this year and Market Harborough event rather than Crick show.

The Braunston historic will be the main show for 2025 in June and followed by Cosgrove and Linslade in July. Lichfield & Hatherton are arranging an event at Brownhills and Huddlesford this year. It was agreed to consider the Huddlesford event only but may be just take the gazebo to Brownhills.

A group visit from Barby History Group is planned for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and volunteers will be needed to carry out show rounds and crew on the evening. It is hoped to attend an event at Saltisford and possibly Banbury if the Napton locks are navigable for the boats.

Scarecrow weekend in October may take place in 2025. KA asked if the boats can attend a new towpath event at Daventry and this was agreed provided crew can be arranged.

Thanks was due to everyone who helped with shows this year and publicity including Jeremy Cooper with the website.

### **11. Publicity and News**

NL apologised for the lack of recent newsletters but intends to send out an issue of 'FoR News' shortly and also short monthly newsletters

CT has taken on management of the social media function and promoted the possibilities in attracting new members and keeping existing ones up to date with events and appeals for help,.

### **13 . Any other business.**

None

Meeting closed at 12.50pm.