



# Woodbridge CAMERA CLUB

AGM Meeting – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>

September 2024 at Quay Church

Woodbridge 7.30pm

## AGM MINUTES

Present: Robin Garrod (Chair) and 16 members.

- 1 Apologies had been received from Richard Brown, Sandra Smith, Sanghamitra Chaudhuri, Christine Brown, Steve and Ann Stammers, Sue Garrod, Penny van Du Have, Graham Woods and Steve Springett
- 2 The minutes for the 2023 AGM were taken as a correct summary of the evening.
- 3 There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 4 Chairmans Report 2024

It's been stressful year me and more so for Sue with her Health problems, but we keep smiling. Our club programme has been a little disjointed with a speaker cancelling to go to New York, as if that better than presenting to WCC! We were totally blown away and rained off for our outdoor shoot on the Deben. (Well done to the 2 members who actually went) But we did have a pleasant evening in Old Felixstowe. The rest of the year went mostly to plan, except for not performing well in us two interclub competitions. Our membership has fallen a little on last year but has remained stable at 39, but this will fall at renewals and hopefully pick up during the year. Our monthly attendance has varied between 14 and 22 members. I can only conclude we are not some members primary interest and we must encourage them to support meetings and activities. Perhaps I should contact them and ask what they would like to do that we are not doing. If our

numbers drop too low the use of this hall will be unsustainable. Get the word out for new and enthusiastic members to join us. I will say this again – Paying your subscription does not entitle you to a service, it opens opportunities for you to join in, learn and have fun.

With several of our long serving SG members standing down there will be changes in how the club runs. I will be able to tell you more after our first SG meeting in October where we decide who is best for each role. We had become very reliant on Steve for so many aspects of the club programme, he wishes to concentrate on his Church Wardenship.

The next year will be my last as Chair, I am finding it more challenging as my sight deteriorates, not so much the craft aspect, but mobility. Getting to meetings and outside activities gets harder especially in the dark. Not having Sue as my chauffeur on many occasions this year was in itself challenging. Thanks to those who have helped with my transport. On this note - I will need group leaders to help with the Twilight Shoot around Woodbridge. 'Follow the White Stick' is not an option, I'll have my work cut out to get around after dark without worrying about other members.

I hope we can have open and frank discussions later after coffee break on what we want to do in the forthcoming club year and beyond.

- 5 Treasurers Report. Robin delivered a summary of the clubs accounts and asked members to be aware of the notes on the Agenda written in Blue. Due to Sues ill health she was unable to finish the final account sheet, so he had stepped in and spend the weekend doing it. It now all balances to the penny with the bank statements. He asked that the accounts be accepted pending verification. Details attached.

Proposer.....Helen Nock

Secunder.....Debbie Waters – All in Favor - Yes

A big thank you to Sue for her hard work throughout the year in spite of ill health and thank you for the work put in over the last eight years.

- 6 Election/Declaration of Members of the Steering Group. Volunteer applications had been received from: -Mandy Pryke, Debbie Waters, Malcolm Preece, Alison Parish, Helen Nock, Penny van der Have, and Robin Garrod. These volunteers were all elected “en-block” .

Proposed..... Maurie Parish

Secundered.....Trevor Boyd - All in Favor – Yes

- 7 Election/Declaration of Chairperson. Mandy stepped up and advised members that Robin was the only person who had volunteered for the position.

Proposed.....Joan Moore

Secundered.....Helen Nock – All in Favor – Yes

Robin thanked members and said that’s handy he could now finish the rest of the meeting.

- 8 Invitation for co-option to SG (if required) We have sufficient SG members to start the next year. If the membership increases, we may need to ask for additional members to join us, or if you have a special skill which will help.

- 9 The AGM was formally closed at 7.45pm.

There was a break for Tea and Coffee which was then followed by a short discussion with members, following on from our zoom meeting held two weeks ago. Here are some of the items we talked about tonight.

Do you want “Competitions in the future and what format would you like these competitions to take next year? Will you take part? We discussed the way our competitions are currently judged. Do we want a mark out of 20 and have images held back etc and arbitrary marks for the also runs or do we have a critique with improvement suggestions and choose say 3 best pictures. These would go forward to external competitions. If we go non-competitive, what do we call it? Possibly A Photo Challenge. Discussion – most members thought it was a good idea to have pictures critiqued with best 3 going forward. Also to call it A Photo Challenge. In the future it seemed a good idea to look at a potential judge’s website to see what their interests were. No good having a judge who isn’t interested in Wildlife pictures when the theme is Wildlife. We need to choose judges who are good for specific interests and topics. Judges to be asked if happy to comment on rather than give points.

Ruth Leech who was the judge at our recent exhibition was considered to be a good judge who does tutorials This will all be considered when booking judges for next year, however there are not many judges in this area. Judges to say something like “This is the one I like the best” or pick a favourite at the end. This idea will be tried for one year and reported back on at next year’s AGM.

Exhibition - Why are members reluctant to take part? The cost of mounting an exhibition at the Longshed is significant, around £360 this year. That works out at approximately £19.95 for each of the 18 members who had exhibited. Steve, Richard and Robin along with several other members having worked so hard to stage the event it was very disheartening for the membership response. It was suggested staging every two years, at possible a different venue. There were three enquiries about joining the club over the three days. The footfall was in the region of 500, but it was felt many had come to see the Tapestry rather than the photo exhibition. It was also felt that the Longshed wasn’t as welcoming or friendly as in the past. It is expensive to put this on every year as

it currently stands, and no new members are likely to be gained from the extra work and the expensive venue. A new venue will be investigated by the new steering group with a view to it being held every other year. We all liked the idea of possibly having it at the Sea Scouts Hall. We talked about having a "Trip out" on the years when there is no Exhibition.

Robin expressed that he would still like to continue with outside competitions. The Granville Foulger Trophy, for example and most members agreed this was a good idea for the club to continue.

More publicity was discussed. Possible staging an event at the Woodbridge Library or in the Salvation Army Hall.

To avoid conflicting dates, it was advisable to get a list of home dates for Ipswich Town Football Club.

We thought about having collective groups of specific themes going out together. For example, those interested in, Landscapes, Street Photography, Wildlife etc. These group outings need not be restricted to a Tuesday evening. Look into the possibility of having evenings where we have a specific speaker and can take part in a learning evening. For example, portraits.

Lots of very positive and enthusiastic ideas for future Steering Group meetings to discuss and implement for the future of the club.

Debbie expressed the thanks of all those involved with the club to Robin for his continued leadership and dedication and send all our love and wishes for a speedy recovery to Sue.

Meeting closed at 9pm