



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD via ZOOM ON TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2020

Members attending:

Mike Warburton, John Weeden, Jim Stewart, Fraser Gunn, Tony Pearson, David Clowes, Ray McCairn, John Martin, Roger Beard, John Franklin, John Oakman, Richard Crisp, Michael Keene, Jack Porteous, Peter Hayes, Peter Hines, Mike Townsend, Fred Passant, John Atkinson, Michael Bennett, Brian Parker.

1. Chairman:

Mike welcomed members to our first Zoom Club meeting. He outlined what the committee had been doing during the lockdown. He said that they had been meeting weekly, informed the meeting that a questionnaire had been produced and had been completed by 25 members. The results will be analysed by the committee and action taken on the points raised. He thanked Jim and Fraser for the work in analysing the data.

Jim had been working on the budget and was pleased to report that all members had paid their subscriptions. He confirmed that with the approval of the members the club had made a donation of £1000 to the Lords Larder Newent Food Bank, which was gratefully received by the organisers. Ray had been working on updating the website which was beginning to look rather tired. Mike thanked him for his efforts. Mike went on to thank Paul for the production of the newsletter and said how important it was to keep the membership informed as to what was going on. He told members that it would be greatly appreciated by Paul if members would submit an article either outlining their careers or a particular hobby. He said that we all have led interesting and varied lives and was sure these experiences could be shared via the Newsletter. He said that the club rules had been refreshed and updated and thanked John Weeden for the work he has carried out. He finished by thanking the committee for their hard work and support to date.

2. Finance:

Jim produced a spreadsheet and explained how the club finances were holding up. Despite the unusual and uncertain times. He said that he was confident that we would end the year with a healthy bank balance.

3. Programme Secretary:

Fraser announced that there had been several Zoom talks organised by Glevum Probus in Gloucester, which many of our members had attended and found to be most interesting. They are having weekly presentation to which we are all invited. He will send the link, so that members may access them. He also said that we had been invited to a talk by David Head (a speaker who had been planned to talk to us this year) who is giving a talk this Thursday 11 June, on “Climate Change” the link has been sent to all members. Fraser reiterated what the Chairman Mike had said with regard to members having interesting lives/careers who might be up to giving a talk. Members who might be reluctant to stand up in front to of an audience of 30 people, might be more comfortable with giving a talk via Zoom? He asked that if any member was prepared to do so to let him know.

4. Club Website:

Ray said that he has been working on updating and refreshing the club website and hoped that members would approve of the changes, he invited comments on the matter.

5. AOB:

5.1

John Weeden announced that he had been in touch with Harold Williams wife, who said that Harold was improving but was unlikely to be re-joining the club. His wife Kay had a bad fall and was unable to look after Harold as she would like, but she is now improving.

5.2

With the absence of a Club Almoner, Mike explained the new procedure being adopted for maintaining contact with members during the lockdown. Each committee member is allocated a number of members who they will contact on a regular basis to ensure all is well. Vice Chairman John Weeden will act as a liaison for members requiring

assistance. This system appears to be working well, with, thankfully all being well at present.

6. Speaker:

Mike Warburton gave a most intriguing talk:” Debt in the time of Coronavirus- are we all doomed?”

Mike outlined the state of the economy before the lockdown and what was perceived to be the situation now. He went on to explain historical events and the effects of events on the country’s financial situation.

Mikes knowledge of the subject was very apparent and gave a fascinating insight into the world of debt. Who will pay and how, will be something to look forward too? Or perhaps not!

Tony Pearson thanked Mike for a very interesting and thought-provoking talk.

7. Special Events:

Fraser announced that there were three members birthday this month. Colin Chave, Trevor Knight and John Martin. He wished them well. He said that as was normal when he told a few amusing stories/jokes but on this occasion, he would have to disappoint John Weeden who enjoys his jokes; Instead he said he would like to play an amusing and uplifting video. Unfortunately, technology go the upper hand and no one could hear or see the video. He apologised and said that hopefully he would be able to do something next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23 June 2020 (Jim has circulated the link)

9. Speaker: David Head: WWII, how close did we come – The Cuban Crisis