



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 October 2020

- Chairman:** Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular to guest Graeme Winn and speaker Paul Isherwood. Mike also offered our best wishes to Tony Pearson regarding his illness, he offered any assistance that members might be able to give.
Tony responded by saying he was deeply touched by members good wishes and how much of a privilege it has been to be a member of the Newent Probus Club the friendships he had made and how honoured he was to have served as our Chairman. He said that he and Anne were dealing with it in the best manner they could.
Mike explained that we had changed the format of the meeting so that we would be able to spend some time discussing the proposed move to a new venue.
- Members present:** John Atkinson, Michael Bennett, Colin Chave, David Clowes, Richard Crisp, Paul Dodd, Terry Finch, John Franklin, Fraser Gunn, Peter Hayes, Peter Hines, Graham Jackson, Michael Keene, John Martin, Ray McCairn, John Oakman, Brian Parker, Fred Passant, Tony Pearson, John Slack, Jim Stewart, Mike Townsend, Mike Warburton, John Weeden, Gareth Williams. Graeme Winn (Guest).
- Apologies:** Roger Beard, Andrew Graham.
- Speaker:** Paul Isherwood – The mind of a Gambler, what makes them tick.

Paul gave a very moving and revealing talk on his personal experience as a gambler, from a young age until manhood. On how he overcame it. He was asked if like an illness, was he cured. He replied that you are never cured, its always there in the background, It's a matter of self - control and how damaging it can be. Paul answered several questions. Mike thanked Paul for a very thought-provoking talk.

5. Items discussed:

5.1: Remembrance Service: Fraser announced that there will be a Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church, Newent. Selected members of organisations will be invited to attend the church service, following the National Social Distancing Guidelines. They will be asked to lay a wreath. Members were asked if anyone would like to represent the club. Pater Hayes volunteered to do so. Fraser has ordered the wreath and will arrange with Peter to obtain it.

5.2: Finance: Jim said that all was well and the current accounts October 2020 will be on the club website next week

5.3: Alternative Club Venue: Mike outlined the discission by the working party on how they had selected the proposed new venue. He displayed a spreadsheet explaining how the working party had come to their decision.

They had decided on three possible venues for consideration.

Upton Bishop Memorial Hall: Poor acoustics, further from Newent

Newent Community Centre: very tired and drab, improvements not due for at least another year

Gorsley Village Hall: had been selected as the best option because of the following reasons:

- Good ambience within the hall
- Pleasant surroundings – large garden
- Adequate parking
- Hall fitted with a Hearing Loop
- Good acoustics
- Built in Projector and Screen
- Good AV equipment available.
- Comfortable seating
- Good heating
- Storage facilities
- Bus stop close by arriving at 9.55 leaving at 12.25
- Public House (Roadmakers Inn) 300 yards walking ¼ mile by car

Ray said that the Technical group – Richard Crisp and John Franklin and himself had visited the hall and were impressed with the technical arrangements. They were going to set up a test using our equipment, to ensure it all works satisfactorily. They asked for approval to spend £50 on cabling to ensure compatibility. This was agreed by the membership.

Mike asked the members to vote whether they wish to approve the move to Gorsley as and when we get back to normality. A show of hands, all 25 members unanimously accepted the proposal. There had been a vote previously at a committee meeting. 1 vote in favour and 1 abstention (This was for political reasons, although he was fully supportive of the move) This means that of the 31 membership, 26 voted in favour and 1 abstention. The rest of the membership were not present. Mike will inform those not present of the decision.

Mike said that he would wait until the Technical Team have reported back before he confirms with Gorsley Management and informs The Memorial Hall.

Peter Hayes asked what the situation is with Gilda Harris. Will she be moving with us.

Jim said that he had not yet discussed this with Gilda but she is being paid up until the end of November. When we finalise our move, he will then speak to her.

Peter Hines suggested announcing it in the Newsletter. Mike said that this could be done but asked Ray not to put on the club website as yet.

Graham Jackson raised the matter of the cost of the Hall. Jim said it was slightly higher but not a problem for a much-improved venue.

6. **Date of next meeting:** 10 November 2020 at **10.30**

7. **Speaker: John Dixon** – Tippling by the Tun – a History of the Market Town