



NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Mike Townsend: Chairman

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2023

Chairman: Mike welcomed 19 members to the meeting, with a special welcome to two guests, Clive Dunning to his first meeting and Mike Askew to his second. John Atkinson updated everyone on John Slack's health. He is continuing to improve and he sent his best wishes to all the club members.

Apologies: John Slack, Chris Lathan, Peter Hayes

Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: None

Treasurer: Mike told the meeting that now bookings for the Christmas Lunch were starting to come in he would be approaching members for payments. He requested that online payments were made if possible, with a reference to the Christmas Lunch.

Speaker Secretary: Fraser informed the meeting that there would be a change to the talk scheduled for the 14th November which would now be by Rev Dr Chris Hucker – Special Operations Executive. He also confirmed that speakers have been booked to the end of March 2024.

Social Secretary: David asked once again for volunteers to help to organise future pub lunches, and confirmed that Paul Dodd had agreed to organise the November lunch at the Farmers Boy, Longhope. He also confirmed that a provisional date of Tuesday 30th April 2024 had been pencilled in for the Kempley Church visits, but a final decision would be made at the next Committee meeting. A quiz night and skittles event are also being investigated.

Webmaster: Ray confirmed that he is reviewing the projection facilities at the Newent Community Centre and is arranging a visit with Fraser to check the connectivity with the club's laptop.

AOB: Mike Townsend and Ray McCairn updated everyone on the need for a new venue for the November meetings due to the reroofing of Gorsley Village Hall. Subject to a few final arrangements it is proposed that these meetings will be held in the Newent Community Centre. This will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Kelvin advised the meeting that the club had been invited to participate in the Newent Remembrance Day Parade and Service on the 12th November. After some discussion it was agreed that Fraser would attend as the club's representative.

Kelvin also asked members to advise him of their attendance at the Christmas Lunch as soon as possible so that an indication of the numbers attending could be gauged.

Today's Speaker: Alistair Patrick – Design of the Moder Motor Car

Alistair gave a very interesting and detailed talk on the processes involved in the design and launch of a new model of car. He spent 40 years in the motor industry, initially as an apprentice, and then at Pressed Steel Fisher before moving to British Leyland, Rover, Land Rover and Jaguar cars. In 2022 world production of new cars was approx. 85 million vehicles, and the profit margin was typically between 6 – 8%. This profit must be viewed against the average time to design and launch a new model of 40 months, which could cost up to £1 billion. A massive investment and a major problem for the company if the new model doesn't sell well across all its markets.

Raffle: The raffle was won by Fraser Gunn.

Birthdays: There were no birthdays to announce, but Kelvin announced the following membership anniversaries in October:

Colin Chapman & David Keen – 2 years, David Clowes – 7 years

Fraser Gunn – 9 years & Peter Hines - 22 years

He also informed the meeting of some events that had taken place on this day in history and told a couple of short jokes.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 24th October 2023

Next Speaker: Jackie Harris – The Life of an Incredible Man: A short history of Sir Peter Scott

Signed:

Date: