



Rotary-Congleton Meeting - August 14th 2023

Apologies for absence received from: Eddie Rob, Eric, Avril, Rob, John R, Janet.

President Brian Hogan

Welcome

President

Thought for the day:

Cath

August birthdays: 2nd Rachel, 4th Tish, 24th Reg, 28th Sandra

Visits

Rod visited The Old Saw Mill and helped to power wash their patio.
Rod also attended the Congleton Youth Orchestra's summer concert.
John R, Bob and Denis also attended.

Welfare

Doug

Doug had no report

Treasurer's report

Bob had circulated his report. There were no issues arising.

Bob

New member forum

Brian stated his intention to hold a forum at every meeting to look after new members joining within the last 2 years and to listen to any of their concerns.

President

Project comments / questions from reports circulated

Members

The Bonfire. Eddie Rob was not present. John K commented on the need for 32 extra banners to fence of the garden area at a cost of around £1,000. Brian introduced the caveat that the Council would need to agree to storing the banners. JK proposed and Rod seconded the expenditure. Brian confirmed that he had booked security for the event. The issue of street traders was discussed. Eddie/Stew to talk to Jackie MacArthur but Brian felt that they were licensed traders. Police asked for payment of £1,100 to cover the event. This had not been paid and police had turned up anyway at the event. Outside catering is provided by the Pizza stall, the Fairground operator and Glebe Farm - although Rob Lomas may not be available to bring the caravan. Ian to discuss and report. Concern was expressed about the future of the bonfire

Youth Services

Eric was not available but his report had been circulated in advance.
Brian said that sponsorship of Young Photographer from Clowes was not certain.

Eric

Environment

Simon added to his report by emphasising the push on 'The Pledge'

until the end of the year. Regular town centre attendance is being planned. Bird feeders in the park were being refilled regularly and bird boxes were ready to be installed in September.

Pledge 'Hints and Tips' were being emailed and Jean reported a low drop out from the mailings.

David said that a push to make gardens more bio diverse and bee friendly and asked members to consider this for next year.

Classic Car show update

Rod

Rod said the show had great potential, but that he needed support to run the event in future. Members were asked to consider this and a volunteer is needed to assist Rod. Brian asked volunteers to contact Rod privately.

Old Saw Mill: Rod asked for c £319 from club funds to top up the proceeds from the car show to make a £1,000 donation to the OSM, in lieu of moneys lost due to cancellation of the show. JG proposed and JK seconded. Agreed unanimously.

Swimathon nominated charities

All Members

Sandra said the Leisure Centre proved suitable and asked members to nominate charities to receive Rotary's share of the proceeds.

Members were allowed 2 votes each

EW proposed:	Beartown Rickshaw	7 votes
Rod proposed:	Old Saw Mill	19 votes
Jo proposed:	LOL Foundation	15 votes
DB proposed:	Trees for Congleton	2 votes

Distribution or retention of Gift Aid continues to be controversial.

After discussion it was agreed that Sandra, Rachel, Bob and Stew would meet discuss all the aspects.

Tree of Light

Brian asked for a new member to take on the Tree of Light. John G said that the concept was well-established and other clubs made a great success out of the event. Jo volunteered to take over the ToL, but wished to do so on a donation basis. Janet had expressed interest and may join in with Jo.

Diary of events:

August 21st - Bowling & meal at Railway pub. Stew and Cath have up to 18 attendees. Bowls at 5pm and supper at 7.30pm subject to arrangement with the pub.

Stew

Ukrainians: John G requested support from members to assist a removal from Congleton to Leek for a Ukrainian family at the weekend.

Ian supported the need for us to help. Stew, Eddie Rush and Ian could be free on Sunday JG to get details.

Proms: Doug reported that the Last Night of the Proms is now fully sold-out

Next meeting: Monday September 4th

Raffle

Rachel

The raffle was won by Gill

Closing toasts

President

John Gauld, Minutes secretary, 14th August 2023.