

Minutes of SI Cockermouth Business meeting 4 November 2021

Present: Claire Rawlinson(President), Joan Hetherington, Joan Markwell, Angela Winkworth, Helen Lord, Helen Tinnion, Hazel Potts, Jen McCullough, Judith Spencer, Chris Blake, Martha Dewis, Lindsay Edmiston, Barbara Williams, Doreen Bertram, Tellervo Juurma.

Sue Longstaff (prospective new member)

Apologies: Karen Shankland, Sue Mendus, Ros Earthy, Tricia Burgess, Jane Shaw (PNM).

1. Presidents Report:

CR welcomed Sue Longstaff to the meeting as a PNM.

Congratulations to AW on achieving 40 years as a founder member of our club.

The Brilliant Breakfast held recently, raised £225 for the Princes Trust Women supporting Women project. Thanks to hosts, HP and DB, a great time was had by all who attended (some in pjs!!)

JS attended centenary reception at the House of Lords. She rubbed shoulders with MPs, past and present, including a past PM. Also SIGBI presidents, past and present. She had a lovely day, marking a very significant milestone for Soroptimism.

CR reminded members of the need to start thinking about officer posts for 2022/23. She asked current office holders to consider whether they could continue or wanted a change. Also, she asked members to consider taking on an officer role if they don't currently hold one (particularly President). We will discuss this further into the new year.

2. Treasurers Report:

Account balances:

Charity £. 951.18

Admin £1,017.22

Subs £1,490.36

There is still £200 unallocated in the charity account, TJ asked that we consider how best to use this. To be kept under review.

3. Region/SIGBI:

The next Regional Council meeting is 20 November on Zoom. Members who wish to attend to email CR by 13/11.

Region are still looking for a vice president; anyone interested to email CR who has the application form.

CR emailed to all members prior to the meeting, SIGBI ballot requiring our vote.

Ballot concerned a change to wording in the constitution. After a vigorous discussion, there was a unanimous vote against the proposed changes. TJ also expressed concern at the overly bureaucratic nature of some of the systems imposed by SIGBI on club, which detract from what we should be focussing on.

Many members agreed with this view. We agreed that an email should be sent to SIGBI expressing these concerns. (Action CR/TJ)

4. Programme Action:

- **Toilet Twinning;** Veeva's have agreed but this is still to be progressed but need KE to confirm the details.

- **16 days of Action** - Stop violence against women;
 - CR reported that there had been no success at obtaining a stall at Keswick market, also the same is true of the Taste Cocker mouth event. The local council would not give us a stall free or at a reduced rate.
 - Post Meeting RE reported that we could use Banks window after Christmas and she is still following up another opportunity. Although too late for the 16 Days of Action it would be good from a publicity point of view
 - LE still needs lots of orange themed photos for our website/ facebook page (only 2 provided so far). All members to try to send photos to her asap (definitely before 25/11 when this project starts).
 - Mothers' Union event at St Bees church on 27/11. JS has been offered a table at this event, where we could promote the 16 days of action and also Soroptimism more generally. We agreed that it was worthwhile to have a presence there, it will be a short event, only lasting about 90minutes. CR and BW to attend with our stand. JS to contact the organiser.
 - CR suggested contacting local MPs and other local prominent people to promote the Stop Violence project, asking them for a photo with an orange theme. JS to email MPs, CR to email Police and Crime Commisioner.
- **WCDVS** - Meeting with WCDVS was cancelled by them due to Covid and family emergency. JS waiting for them to reschedule.
- **PCF** - The box is now full, CR to arrange collection. CR will try to obtain a box of ring pull gifts/Christmas decorations to sell at the Christmas party night at Veeva.
- **Tree planting project** - JS reported that the trees have not arrived yet.

5. Requests for donations received by Club.

- JMcC has been approached by a neighbour, who is involved with a Ugandan charity (Pass It On Trust Uganda – PIOTU), to donate towards the cost of postage of parcels of clothing, sanitary items etc, which are sent to the project. The charity is about empowering, enabling and educating women in Uganda. The lady involved is self-funding her work with the project. After discussion, we agreed that the work she is doing was amazing and making a difference to many lives. The Ugandan charity shares the same aims as our club. JMcC was asked to feedback to her neighbour, our interest in the work she does and that we will review any available money we may have for this work toward the end of the financial year. TJ noted that we would need to make payment in a way that made it clear how the funding would be used for the charity.
- A second request for funding has been received from Cocker mouth Guide Ranger unit. The request is for a donation toward a trip to Switzerland by 16 girls. After discussion it was agreed that LE should feedback that our club policy (established some years ago after a number of similar requests) is that we do not make financial donations for these type of activities. However, we are happy to help with any fundraising they are doing for this trip.

6. SI Cockermouth website:

CR demonstrated the SIGBI website which has our club link now in operation. Members are encouraged to have a look. CR to include link with minutes ([Club Home - SI Cockermouth \(sigbi.org\)](#)). MD and LE need members to send them information, photos etc for our section of the site.

7. Foodbank Care bags:

Last year we donated over 70 bags, made by members, to the foodbank. JH in discussion with the foodbank, has identified that there is a need to do something similar this Christmas, but a similar donation may be good in the Spring. JH to bring back to club in the New Year, after liasing further with foodbank, she will also keep CR and JS informed.

8. Remembrance Sunday: 14/11

HL is sourcing the wreath. CR to attend, any other members who would be available to attend should email CR before the event.

9. Social:

- Soroptimist coffee morning as usual, second Monday at Lakes centre (8/11 at 10.30)
- Christmas party at Veevas, 2/12, Members wanting to attend to pay DB asap (£20)

10. Next meeting 18/11 Details to be confirmed