



THE MILITARY VEHICLE TRUST

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

Sunday 14 September 2014 at 10.00am

held at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Present: W Boulton (Insurance Officer), S Bromley (General Secretary), J Carroll (Editor), S Edwards (Safety Officer), S Flitcroft (Membership & Shop Manager), P Hamblin (Council Member), N Hubert (Internet Site Officer), S Johnson (Publications Liaison Officer), J Newbould (Council Member), J Keedwell (Council Member), T Till (Chairman) and M Turner (Council Member),.

Apologies were received from: C Brook, G Fletcher, T Hawkes, P Palmer and P Robinson.

Also in attendance: B Shuker (S&BC Area).

29. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2014

The Minutes of the meeting were approved.

30. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2014

TT gave an update on the B&WM Area financial situation. PP now has the bank books although there are no funds. SE said the matter needs to be concluded as it puts the whole MVT in jeopardy. (Minutes 956, 992, 06 and 23)

TT asked if everyone was producing timesheets. (Minute 25C)

SE asked if there had been a safety report from the Normandy D-Day Tour. SB offered to check with the organisers. (Minute 28)

31. REGULAR REPORTS

Written reports circulated prior to the meeting showed:

Finance including a balance sheet. – TT referred to parts of GF's report.

Publications – Two reports were circulated. JC explained that handwritten articles and reports take a lot of time to transfer into typed format.

Website – NH had produced his informative statistic pages.

Reports were also presented for Vehicle Verification, Safety, Membership and Shop.

32. MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION

Publications

Firstly, PH asked if the handwritten submissions should be accepted but JC thought they must. TT emphasised the need to meet deadlines and SJ said the problems of late updates would be eased if the decision to go to six W/s was agreed, as there would be less slack. The CoM gave their full support to JC to be rigid with deadlines for submissions to ensure the magazine is printed on time.

Following on from the last meeting (Minute 25B), the G/S adverts had been run on the website by NG. Prices for six W/s and no G/S had been produced and the difference in cost was thought acceptable. JC said he is willing to go with the changes. It was therefore agreed that from the New Year, the number of W/s produced per annum would be six, and the G/S dropped at the same time. It was also agreed that the number of pages in the W/s would continue at 96. JC said his only concern was the need to manage the Area Reports. Area contributors could not be expected to produce more frequent reports of similar lengths, so reports could be shorter or less frequent. After some discussion, it was also decided that members' small adverts would go into W/s as text only, along with the text only from the adverts from the website. This will be reviewed from time to time, with the hope the website will take over all advertising.

TT said JC would need a new contract from next January. JC left the room whilst the matter was discussed. The new arrangements would include:

- Agreeing any financial changes with JC to produce six, 96 page W/s from January 2015, along with the calendar, etc.
- Ending G/S after the December 2014 issue.
- Inviting tenders for a new W/s contract to commence in January 2016, being advertised from March 2015.

JC re-joined the meeting and was happy with the plans.

Membership

SF explained the idea to out-source some of the routine membership work. ACB had been approached to see if it was viable to reduce the workload on the membership team of SF and GF. GF had produced a document detailing the specification of the work required. ACB have considered what is involved in this project, and are happy and enthusiastic about taking on this work. Pricing it would need to be based upon time rather than any explicit actions and would tentatively work out at £500 per month (plus VAT) for the work detailed. This would be reviewed after three months in case it turns out to be either greater or significantly less work than ACB had anticipated. Also ACB propose that they charge only £400 for the first two months to reflect the help that GF/SF will inevitably have to provide to them initially. ACB also suggest that after the first six months of operating, the notice period on either side should be three months.

The matter was then discussed and the benefits of continuity and savings on postage. SF confirmed that members' enquiries would still go to him. It was agreed to trial ACB's role for two months. The matter could then be reviewed again with more accurate costs.

33. CHANGES TO THE SET-UP OF AREAS

SB reported on the continuing progress with the Areas submitting the necessary paperwork. This can be viewed on the regularly updated spreadsheet on the Area Secretaries' Pages on the website under "Progress". SB said some of the higher-profile and very active Areas had not yet produced any paperwork, whilst other smaller Areas had dealt with everything quickly and efficiently. He hoped this would soon be corrected, especially as the end of the Trust's accounting year is 30 September.

34. GRANTS

TT reported grants had been given for an Area website and the insurance costs of the M&FM Show in Essex (in conjunction with the Essex Area). The Grants Sub-committee (formally the Loans & Grants Sub-committee) was considering an application from TT&FP for assistance with insurance cover, but this is dependent on their final figures from the last event.

SB pointed out any applications for grants from Areas must be submitted by 1st November to allow them to be considered and then presented to the Council meeting held in late November.

35. AIRSOFT WEAPONS

NH explained that to purchase a realistic airsoft weapon the purchaser needs to be a member of a suitable re-enactor association, and the MVT qualifies as an acceptable organisation. Consequently, the Trust is picking up new members whose main reason for joining is to be able to provide evidence of their Trust membership to the retailer who then logs the sale and the details. There was concern that MVT insurance does not cover airsoft activities, but the organisation's PLI cover is a requirement that demonstrates it is a bone fide body. Nevertheless, it was agreed SB, with NG's input, should write to the Airsoft Retailers Association to confirm the limitations of the Trust's cover, and so avoid any misunderstanding. Retailers can then decide whether they wish to supply airsoft weapons to Trust members.

36. FBHVC AGM

SB said it is the Federation's AGM on 19th October and he cannot attend. SE offered to accompany Vice President John Marchant.

37. DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following dates were agreed for Council of Management meetings and the AGM:

- Sunday 23 November 2014 (previously agreed)
- Sunday 8 February 2015 (previously agreed)
- Sunday 19 April 2015 followed by the AGM
- Sunday 14 June 2015
- Sunday 13 September 2015
- Sunday 29 November 2015
- Sunday 7 February 2016

At present, all meetings are planned to be at the Stratford-upon-Avon Holiday Inn.

38. SHOWS & EVENTS

JC reported the theme for the next NEC Classic Car Show will be "Movies", which may well suit many owners whose military vehicles have appeared on screen.

WB said the insurance companies are currently looking to sponsor shows and events and it might be worth organisers checking.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 2.10pm.

The next meeting is on Sunday 23 November 2014,
at the Holiday Inn, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YR, starting at 10.00am.
