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| A black and grey flag  Description automatically generated with low confidence | THE FRIENDS OF THE HUNTER FLEET |

## Proceedings of the Twenty Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Friends’ Association

Held at Hunter's Yard, Ludham on Saturday 18th May 2024 at 11.30am.

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|  | Apologies About 45 members attended and some apologies were received. |
| **1.** | Welcome The Chairman, Rodney Longhurst, welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for coming and their ongoing support. |
| **2.** | Proceedings of the Twenty-seventh AGM of 20th May 2023 The minutes of the prior year’s AGM were accepted by the meeting with no votes against.  **Approved** |
| **3.** | Matters Arising There were no matters arising. |
| **4.** | Outgoing Chairman’s Report The Chairman had advised the members at the previous AGM that he intended to stand down this year and so this was his outgoing report. He thanked all of the friends for their ongoing support and with the rising costs of everything, reiterated the vital role that their contribution has in ensuring the future of the Yard and Fleet.  He was thanked by the room for his work as Chairman and a gift and card from the committee were presented. |
| **5.** | Election of Officers There was only one nomination for the new Chairman, Neil Hopkinson who was proposed by Jennifer Fawcus and seconded by John Moore. He was elected with no votes against.  The existing committee was re-elected with no votes against. Two new committee members were proposed:  Paul Bentley who was proposed by Christine Wall and seconded by John Moore  Stephen Eliot-Hunter who was proposed by Louise Hopkinson and seconded by Kathy Moore  Both were elected with no votes against |
| **6.** | Adoption of Accounts for 2023 – Treasurer’s Report The accounts were available at the meeting and are attached with the Treasurer’s written report at Annex A.  The Treasurer was unable to attend the AGM and his report was presented by the Secretary in his absence.  A question was asked from the floor about the significant cost for producing and posting the Newsletters. It was explained by the Secretary that the Committee had looked at this and that Friends we encouraged to have pdf Newsletters but that it was accepted that many Friends preferred a printed copy. The Committee have considered an additional charge for the paper copy but in light of the recent increase in the annual contribution, this has been deferred. It was pointed out that the Friends donate more to the Trust each year than is received in subscriptions as enough is raised from events etc. each year to cover all of the running costs.  Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Kathy Moore and seconded by Neil Hopkinson and the accounts were approved with no votes against.  **Approved** |
| **7.** | Report from the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust Neville Khambatta, chairman of the trustees was unable to attend the AGM and in his absence the Yard Manager, Martin Whitaker, gave his report. The text of the report is as follows:  At the last AGM we reported that a number of primary schools were to spend a day at the yard. In the event over 400 primary school children visited and enjoyed ‘A Day at Hunter’s Yard’. This successful pilot scheme proved very valuable when we applied successfully to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to fund the post of Schools, Youth & Community Project Co-ordinator for two years.  Aggie Rothan started work in March and we already have over 500 children booked to visit us this year. These visits are funded by grants received from the Norwich Charitable Foundation and Alan Boswell, as well as the National Lottery Heritage Fund.  In addition to the day visits we were also given a grant by The Ranworth Trust to take secondary school pupils out for two or three days on the cabin yachts. Last season saw us running a very small pilot scheme and in July we shall repeat the exercise with more students. Those of you who remember times past will know that we are doing nothing new, just re-starting what used to happen too many years ago!  The reasonings behind these initiatives are :  To give Norfolk children the opportunity to experience all that sailing on the Broads means, learning the skills needed to sail our boats, experiencing the Broads themselves with the huge diversity of natural life which so many of us have loved, enjoyed and experienced ourselves over the years.  To build links with our local community, we are looking to bring other groups to the Yard during the school holidays from the Matthew Project and the Benjamin Foundation, for example.  To give us a solid foundation of demonstrable charitable work to use to approach other grant making charitable bodies for further assistance.  Early in July the Trustees will receive a management consultants report on The Trust. This was a requirement of the Lottery grant and will help us as we plan for the future. It will not have escaped your notice that we are only 8 years away from “HUNTER’S HUNDRED’ - one hundred years since Percy Hunter and his sons dug the dyke, built the first shed and the first of the fleet.  It is to be hoped that by this time next year we may have been able to start an apprentice scheme - this has been an ambition of the Trust since it was set up in 1996.  We have made no mention of the flooding that Broadland has experienced throughout last winter. This is something which we are beginning to address but you will understand that it is a large and complex subject which will have to approached very carefully bearing in mind the unique nature of the yard, it’s history and heritage.”  While all this is going on the primary purpose of the trust remains the maintenance and preservation of the fleet. It is always a pleasure to be able to record our thanks to the team for the work they do to keep the fleet as a living breathing example of what a broads Hire Fleet should be, now and in the future.  Ladies and gentlemen, we believe that the future is full, exciting and challenging.  Neville H. Khambatta, Chairman  The Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust. |
| **8.** | **Proposal to Change Name of the Friends and align branding with the Yard** – The Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust, of which we are a part, has rebranded with a new logo and is now using the name “Hunter’s Yard” in all of its communications. It is currently working with consultants on the future direction and the Friends want to ensure that we are aligned with this.  The proposal is that: The membership give the Committee the authority to propose that the Trust change the formal naming and presentation of the Friends of the Hunter Fleet to align with the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust branding. Specifically, to change the name to “The Friends of Hunter’s Yard” if this is confirmed by the Trust.  The motion was proposed by Louise Hopkinson and seconded by Pio Altarelli.  Louise Hopkinson spoke for the motion explaining the rationale to maintain alignment with the Trust. The rebranding last year has changed the main logo from saying Hunter Fleet to saying Hunter’s Yard and this is now also used on the Website and other publications. The Motion leaves some freedom to act as there is work underway as referred to in the Trust Report previously presented but the committee want to be able to change is needed without waiting until the next AGM.  Philip Bray (Secretary of the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust) spoke against the motion. He stated that the name change in the logo was not a conscious rebranding and had not been given serious thought by the Trust when commissioning the new logo. The business trades as Hunter Fleet Ltd. He felt that the Friends was clearly set up with the purpose of supporting the Fleet, not the Yard and that funds should go to the Fleet and not the Yard and that we therefore opposed the motion.  For clarity, John Moore read out that the Articles of the Friends which gives the objects as follows:   * to support the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust in its objects and activities. * to help preserve the Hunter’s Yard and the Fleet. * to support the increasing use of the fleet by the public, schools and youth organisations. * to keep people in touch with the activities of Hunter’s Yard and the Fleet.   Neil Hopkinson pointed out that recently the Friends had bought several items for the Yard (rather than for the Fleet) including a Gazebo, a strimmer and new posts for the car park signage.  From the Floor a variety of points were made supporting the alignment of the branding. There was an opinion that Hunter’s Yard was a generic name with no link to sailing unlike the term Fleet. The Secretary reminded the room that this was a matter for the Trust and that the intention was purely to align with them.  The motion was put to a vote and was approved with 42 votes in favour (including 8 proxy votes) and 4 opposed.  **Approved** |
| **8.** | **Looking Forward**  We have a number of events over the summer.  **2 Day Skippered Sails** – 15th-22nd June  There are increasingly popular with 3 boats this year. Each pair of Friends has 2 days of sailing with a skipper, staying in a B&B overnight. This year is now fully booked.  **Bat Talk & Walk** – 28th June  This is a new event with a guided bat walk with experts who will bring bat detectors  **Autumn Event 2023** – Sat 21st September  As with previous years this event is a ‘bring-your-own’ picnic. There will be sailing, a wildlife walk and the Nancy Oldfield Trust will bring a motor boat for those who wish to watch the boats sailing. We hope to see as many as possible.  **Friends Sailing Week** – 21st-28th September  Immediately following the Autumn Picnic Friends are offered a discounted rate to join a cruise in company with evenings in the pub and help with bridges – this is a great chance for less confident sailors to enjoy a sociable week exploring the Broads. |
| **9.** | Any Other Business The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Christine Wall in her absence to thank her for her ongoing work in editing the Newsletter which is greatly appreciated by the Friends.  Philip Bray explained that there would sadly not be a Hunter calendar this year as it is proving increasingly difficult to sell enough to break even.  The meeting again thanked Rodney for his work as Chairman. |
|  | The meeting finished at 12:00.  The Friends then gathered for a barbecue, sailing and chatting over tea and cakes. |

Annex A

**TREASURER'S REPORT for the 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

18th Mav 2024

You should have in front of you a copy of- the Annual Income and Expenditure Account for The Friends of the Hunter Fleet for 2023. This Account is prepared each calendar year and shows the figures for 2022 as comparatives.

You can see that our overall income amounted to £23,222.36 and expenditure £10,265.15. This left a surplus for the year of £12,957.21 to add to accumulated funds. Out of these we transferred £12,000.00 to the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust but in addition to this you can see that the Friends purchased a new mower, a gazebo and new parking signs for the Trust amounting in total to f2,108.48.

At the beginning of the year the subscriptions were increased from £15 to £25 per annum and this has been reflected in the increased subscription income shown. However it appears that the donations have fallen somewhat and this may be due to members. who generously and regularly pay more than the basic subscription, paying the same amount and having a greater part of the overall payment treated as a subscription.

At the end of the year, that is on 31 December 2023, our funds totalled f 15,708.56 as you can see at the foot of the page. These figures have been incorporated into the Charity Accounts for the Norfolk Heritage Fleet Trust by our Independent Reporting Accountants, Larking Gowen If you have any questions on any of these figures I will happily deal with them on request and I apologise for not being here in person to answer them today.

David Yapp, Hon. Treasurer May 2024

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