**Alston Moor Golf Club**

**Minutes of Committee meeting**

Date: 19th March 2024 Location Clubhouse at 7.00pm

Attendees P Parkin, A Dodd, V James, P Bell, S Love, D Rutherford

Apologies P Rymer, R Moore J Younger, M Younger

**Agenda:**

1. Previous Minutes 27th February 2024 and 9th Jan.
   1. AGM 3pm 7th April .All postings on display and members notified of proposed changes to Subscriptions.

**2024 PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Membership Type** | **ACTUAL Subscription 2023** | **PROPOSED Subscription 2024** |
| **Gents Full Play** | **£260.00** | **£275.00** |
| **Gents Senior** | **£195.00** | **£210.00** |
| **Gents Country** | **£190.00** | **£205.00** |
| **Gents Weekday** | **£175.00** | **£190.00** |
| **Ladies Full Play** | **£260.00** | **£275.00** |
| **Ladies Senior** | **£195.00** | **£210.00** |
| **Ladies Country** | **£190.00** | **£205.00** |
| **Ladies Weekday** | **£175.00** | **£190.00** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Green Fees** | **2023** | **2023** | **2024** | **2024** |
|  | **Visitors** | **Visitor with member** | **Visitor** | **Visitor with member** |
| **Weekdays & Weekends** | **£15** | **£10** | **£20** | **£10** |
| **Junior (upto18)** | **£10** | **£5** | **£10** | **£5** |

1. **Action List**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Action List** | **By Who** | **When** |
| **1** | **New Website is up and running. Policies have been updated an added. Add copies of latest Minutes of Meeting to website, and links to local accommodation. Booking issues for Competitions via the website .New Card forwarded, Fixture list forwarded** | **HH** | **TBA** |
| **2** | **Clubhouse New Bar worktop (Cascina Pine Grey) installed White strip required on inner bar edge PR. Review further refurbishment to the front and back and floor of the bar as Clubhouse is in need of redecoration.**  **Budget of £400 agreed**  **Look at a Hive to replace the Thermostat** | **MH/AD** | **Ongoing** |
| **3** | **Dark Skies. Solar Panels have been installed and are working. Westmorland and Furness Council have agreed to fund £10k towards a small fibreglass observatory approx. 2.2m dia. Alston parish Council have agreed to fund £2k, which will fund the purchase and installation of a Pulsar Observatory. Car park has been cleared. Next stage is the mark out and excavation of the foundations.** | **PP/AD** | **Ongoing** |
| **4** | **Ladies have requested that a screened toilet area is constructed amongst the tees on the LH side of the short 4th tee. A nylon screen was discussed and a Portapotty has been donated. Complete but some subsequent wind damage.** | **DR** | **Ongoing repair** |
| **5** | **Tidy up around the Clubhouse and concreting with reinforcement in front of the machine shed to give a working area. The observatory will require precast concrete so we should consider trying to do it as the same time as the Observatory funds. New building to be constructed with purchased timer. Area has been cleared. Conveyor belt on site for sides, need posts holders. Post foundation needs to be constructed. RH to remove some of the unused cars from the site.** | **RH/JR/CB** | **Ongoing** |
| **6** | **Contact Forestry Commission, Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Trust with regards to funding from Carbon Offset schemes, Grants for stonewalling and Ash Dieback.**  **Application with Defra/Countryside Stewardship to give the Secretary access to their website Application forms.**  **Two meeting todate with ANOB and Cumbria Woodland Trust about the possibility of a Wilderness Walk which would be 100% fundedon the otherside of the road. A Bird survey will be carried out to access what assistance ANOB can provide** | **AD** | **ongoing** |
| **7** | **Greens Keeping advertising for personnel to cut the Greens. S Love will cut the rough and C Dickinson will cut the fairways. We will advertise for Greens cutters. Todate we have had two external Jack Marples and Brandon Lee other applicants who we believe are in the £15 to £20 range.** | **PP/AD** | **ongoing** |
| **8** | **Drystone Walling advertisement received 4 quotes. Ranging from £45/metre to £30 per metre. Preferred option is Mog McGuire at £30 who is local and recently did 12 metres of walling for us and has a good reputation . Grant application to be submitted** | **PP/AD** | **ongoing** |
| **9** | **Captain**  **Captains Drive in is 13th April** | **MY** |  |
| **10** | **Motorhome Planning application to be submitted. Local rate at Haggs Bank is £30 per night. Secretary to investigate any setup fees.** |  |  |

**2.Treasurers Report**

2.1 2023/24 Accounts were viewed and discussed

2.2 Accounts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Account | 241022 | 210223 | 300523 | 180723 | 031023 | 190324 |
| Community Account | 4050.29 | 7695.33 | 17319.99 | £14890 | 13316.08 | 3411.21 |
| Savings Account | 7672.47 | 8138.70 | 8026.67 | 7736 | 7771.63 | 7834.63 |
| Competition Account | 2263.68 | 3273.73 | 3521.30 | 4037 | 4238.46 | 4399.12 |
| Bar Account | 16438.25 | 7244.60 | 8026.67 | 8601 | 10382.51 | 10189.86 |
| Total | 30424.00 |  | 36585.96 | 35264 | 35705.68 | 25834.82 |
| Observatory |  | 5000 | 7775.16 | 7760 | 7745.16 | 3100.16 |

Deposit on Observatory dome £3100,Payment of Wages

2.3 Membership

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Membership | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
| Total | 79 | 70 | 78 | 97 | 93 | 87 | 77 |
| Full |  | 41 | 52 | 58 | 58 | 50 | 39 |
| Senior |  | 18 | 19 | 21 | 24 | 21 | 22 |
| Junior | 2 | 1? | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | - |
| Country | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 Day | 1 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Social | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Honorary |  |  | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

2.5 Greens Fees £6398.06 compared with £5918.19 2022/3 an increase of 8% . We still receive the majority of payment via the honesty box.

**3. Greens Committee**

Greens Committee

S Love (Gents Capt.) R Moore (Ladies Capt.) Peter Richardson, Vivian James, Richard Heslop; No meetings have been held.

3.1 Preferred Lies a sign will be displayed on the car park notice board to confirm status. The rules on the scorecard apply. Complete

3.2 Staked and Guarded trees both qualify for relief .

Restaking of Trees and removal of tree covers and small stakes are required. Restaking with

large stakes was agreed. Stakes have been acquired. The removal and replanting of a number of trees on the 3rd /12th was discussed. K Short has restaked some. 100 stakes will cost £400 2x2 48’’ ( not purchased)

3.3 Course issues

* 1. Ongoing Work on teeboxes .New roller in use for the tee boxes. Tees’s boxes to be sanded and overseeeded. Seed is required M Liverick
  2. Catching of moles and rabbits. Alan Frater to be asked to urgently catching moles on a regular basis. Mr Frater has advised that he is waiting for the course to dryout a second molecatcher is to be located.M Deadman M Collins and Danny Taylor have also been given permission to shoot on the land.
  3. Preferred Lies are now a local rule .If a ball is through then clean and drop in the rough.
  4. It was agreed to instruct visitors to play off the white markers if they want to play the 18-hole layout. Ongoing
  5. Rabbit holes are bad on the 1st tee 4th fairway. Holes require filling. The hexagon cutter requires repair.
  6. Work party required constructing new storage shed.
  7. New Tee Markers 10% complete and Yardage stakes 90% installed. Advertising is to be considered.

Buggy use may need to be considered on an instruction to move the side of each hole.

h) Three secondhand batteries for Greens, Rough mower and Cushman

i) Rough Mower and fairway mowers are aging and we should lookout for suitable

replacements.

3.6 Second and Fourth and 16th teeboxes to be resurfaced with the addition of soil and turf from

Kirkbride.Digger required.

3.7 Practice area teebox requires some improvement. Ground landscaping and the net frame needs to be higher. This will be reviewed when we have established if the Observatory will go ahead.

3.8 Trim the branches of the trees along the roadside to improve visibility of the road and the course.

**4. Handicap &Competitions**

4.1 Protocol for cancelling/postponing competitions agreed that Four Committee members (It was previously 2) can make the decision in the morning of the competition if the Competition Secretary is not available. P Richardson advised that he would act as Competition Secretary for 2022. The process for a competition that has to be cancelled due to weather conditions that deteriorate to the point that the course is unplayable in the afternoon were discussed. R&A rules 5.7 gives some guidance but relates to suspension of play rather than rescheduling. It is the responsibility of the Competition Secretary to decide if a competition is suspended. Other golf clubs appear to accept that a competition is completed if more than 50% of the entries have completed the course. Due to the low number of competition entries we need to agree a process and a process for communicating any changes to members on the course and members who have not started their round.

The following was agreed if morning play is suspended a review would occur in the afternoon to see if is possible to play. If the Committee members deem a competition unplayable then car horns and mobile phones will be used to communicate this issue.

4.2 Consider mid week competitions. Format for Friday 10 hole competition to be reviewed.

**5. Clubhouse**

5.1 The following non-committee members are formally approved to serve behind the bar Christine Walton, Carl Dickenson, Colin Carnell, T Younger, K Short

5.2 Clubhouse boiler Simon Lee has been requested to repair and serviced. Secretary is pursing government energy grants for a new boiler NEW Storm Arwen fund has been considered but does requires a standalone power system that will operate for 72 hours.

5.3 Bar staff are requested to pull-out the rubber bung in the dishwasher to allow the water to drain away.

5.4 New floor covering inside the Ladies cubicles has been requested .

**6.Marketing /Publicity Committee**

6.1 New website under construction by Haydn Howard in the New Year. Drone footage added to site

which is very good.

6.2 Publicity via Youtuber Peter Finch playing the highest courses in Wales England and Scotland and Channel 5 TV program on Cumbria with Dan Walker and Helen Skelton playing the course. Program will be repeated in March.

6.3 It is hoped that the Observatory will get us additional publicity and a Booking system is to be considered and the need for presenters /guides.

6.4 Consider an Introduction to Golf Day or Free Invitation Taster to find new members, Days to

7. **Any Other Business**.

7.1 Install an air compressor to by the car park noticeboard to allow members to clean shoes, and buggies. Compressor is currently stored in the workshops a safe box is required for the top car park. Base and Cover are required.

7.2 Car chargers will be installed at no cost to the club we may need to factor in a 3 phase supply to the solar panels if this proceeds. Trustee will be required to authorise. A copy of the Land Registration certificate is required. Issues with the Land registry associated with the Dryborough loan, which is associated with the Deeds. A Dodd to contact Pernod Ricard ,process complete need a copy of the Letter of Completion from Cartmell.Land registration will take upto 18 months

7.3 Course seats need refurbishing. New wedges are required in the cement sided seats and the cost of new composite boards is to be acquired.

7.4 County Membership entitles members to 10 rounds on courses within Cumbria and affiliates for

£100.

7.5 Discussed holding a midweek Texas Open Scramble next year. June is the preferred month.

7.6 Addition signage required

i) 3rd and 12th Ring Bell after finishing hole.

ii) 2nd Repair pitch marks and be aware of golfers on the 3rd and 12 th Tee

iii) 6th Be aware of golfers playing the 4th & 13th Hole.

iv) Sign no practice driving off the 1st and 10th tees and remove the plastic box full of balls near the clubhouse.

7.8 Request from Low Flatt to reroute the path that goes through their land.

7.9 Reciprocal arrangements with other clubs to be investigated

8.0 Bell on the 18th Green

8.2 Dipping of unapproved materials by members was discussed and it was agreed that no dipping

without committee approval is not allowed.

8.3 Fixture list for 2024/24 has been created and will be issued.

8.4 Darts team requested additional support and several members advised that they were prepared to

help.

8.5 Mr Pease appear to be using the course land as overflow for his rubbish.Secretary to discuss.

Next meeting 30th April 2024

Meeting closed 8.40 pm Andrew Dodd Secretary