

**Chair: Jim Haluch Secretary: Sandy Dewar Treasurer: Freda Lowe**

SCOPHRA

General Meeting

24th May 2021

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

# Welcome: Chair.

# Present J. Haluch, Freda Lowe, Sandy Dewar. Bill Gray, Janet Reid, Morag Groundwater. Brian Hood, Jim Culter, John Coulter, Eddie Wallace, Evelyn Ingram.

# Apologies: Bill Blair, Tricia Watson, Libby Thorman, Greg Keenan, Fiona Durward.

# Minutes. The minute from the General meeting was passed by Freda Lowe and Seconded by Jim Cutler.

The minute from the meeting with IPHAS was passed by Freda Lowe and Seconded by Lim Haluch. The meeting on the 17th May was passed by Freda Lowe and seconded by Jim Haluch.

The points raised were as follows.

# It has been intimated Bill Blair and Sandy Dewar have resigned from the committee as they are moving house.

Freda was asked to put forward her thoughts as they had been expressed at the Executive meeting. The committee has not expanded and the growth has been disappointing. We have people coming in and asking questions and once they have their answer disappear. We have a Government who has helped us but cannot control the councils. We are tired as we seem to be the only people responding to the problems of member. Individual parks are battling with councils who do not all seem to have the same approach to the licencing issues. Councils are allowing people to stay on Holiday Parks as permanent residents. Now the elections are over we need help to get onto the government and councils we need to highlight the issues with the executive within councils and government. Bring to notice the rogue owners who ride rough shod over the legislation.

Bill Gray felt the same about councils. They did not have the funds or the inclination to take on the responsibility of enforcing licencing issues

Eddie Wallace was disappointed in people who asked for advice and then disappeared once they had an answer. He suggested a sum of £100 should be asked for before advice was given, this would also help in the promotion of membership of SCHOPRA. He also agreed that councils were only interested in their own agenda regarding licencing.

Jim & John (Monksmuir) are in agreement with this as the council they have do not move on any complaint put before them.

Janet Reid is of the same opinion. She feels the structure is all wrong as when a complaint is brought to the council they don’t want to know as they say they don’t have funding to sort out the issues. Also if a licence is revoked the council would be required to take over the park but the council don’t have the funding for this.

Brian Hood His Park is operating without a licence (Wyldecrest) there has been enforcement orders of £100,000 fine for breaking planning laws south of the border. P&K have not initiated any enforcement action yet.

Tricia Watson has been passed from pillar to post but no one will take responsibility for breaches of licence.

# Financial Statement: - We have £667.23 in the bank. There is not much movement.

# There was discussion about Seaton developments and the work being done at Annsmuir. The discussions circulated around the use of press and TV. This to be taken to the next Executive meeting. Lynne Haig was to be approached about this.

Eddie suggested we get a standard letter and send it into the small local press to get the message out about the difficulties on parks.

Contact was to be made with the new members of the government executive.

The executive committee is to send a letter of introduction to all the new MSP’s and let them all know of Park Homes in their area.

It was brought up about Holiday Home owners being moved on from Seaton Park. Jim Haluch advised on the upgrade situation. Holiday licences do not have any protection as they would if they had a written statement.

There was much discussion around Fit and Proper Person Test. Also the position if any Owner loses a licence or has a criminal record. It was the position every council should be notified if any of these situations should arise.

The following is to be taken back to the Executive.

The Press, the government, local authorities, education, and MSP’s and STV.

Jim asked if there were any parks who would be able to assist in the running of SCOPHRA.

Comment was made about the same association members continually making complaints. This can be construed as harassment. It was suggested that the individuals with the complaints should also send their complaints to the council themselves.

# The website was receiving a few enquiries about advice on the purchase of Park Homes in Scotland. It was suggested that they be advised to take legal advice or contact Park Homes Scotland if they wish to discuss a Park or a purchase. It was again suggested help was needed as the website and the updated spreadsheets need to be worked on.

# The point was raised about gas boilers being phased out after 2025. The problem would need to be addressed as some sites may not have the necessary capacity to allow this. This is felt to be an issue on electricity capacity on most sites.

# Next Meeting: - Executive meeting 5thJuly 2021 11am Zoom.

# End of Minute. 24/06/2021 Sandy Dewar (SCOPHRA Secretary)