

Fleet Cycling Extraordinary General Meeting

Minutes

11th November 2020, 8:00 to 9:30 pm

Venue: Zoom online meeting

1. Attendees

1.1. Committee Attendees

John Crossley, Chair; Ed Humphrey, Rides Secretary; Colin Waters, Treasurer; Lisa Chapman, Publicity Officer; Andrew Perkins, Secretary; Saty M, Welfare Officer and Webmaster

1.2. Membership Represented

Clive Eckett, John Calvert, Mary Calvert, Richard Somerset, Robert Humphrey, Ken Crookes, Bob McLeod, Alan Jones, Barry B, Keith Phillips, Howard @@@.

Apologies from Bryan East

2. Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

- Not a formal AGM – will be delayed until the Spring
- Chance to reflect on last 6 months
- Running of the meeting
 - o All on mute if not talking
 - o Questions/comments
 - Put virtual hand up
 - Written Q or comment

3. Reminder of Club Objectives

John Crossley explained the club objectives:

- Promotion of cycling in Fleet and NE Hampshire
- Acting as the cyclists champion – representing their interests
 - o Updating cycling manifesto
 - Shared with Councillors
 - o Building relationship with Councillors
 - o Letter to Ranil
 - o Question to council meeting
 - o Hart council survey amendment – suggesting that cyclists were a hazard
- Encouraging participation
 - o Active set of rides
- Inclusivity – everyone can be involved

4. Summary of Changes Due to COVID

Ed Humphrey explained the changes which have been made:

- Focus on ride changes
- New structure
 - o Booking system, max six riders
 - o More formal approach, but reflects circumstances
 - o Faster Group rides introduced
- Group rides suspended during November lockdown

5. Suggestions, Questions and Answers

Future ride numbers: several people, some of whom were leaders, said they felt that groups should remain limited in size even after Covid restrictions are removed, to make them more manageable and to allow traffic to pass more easily (and to make it easier for the coffee shops to serve us), since it has not always been easy to enforce the splitting up of a large group on the road. The advantage of larger groups is that they provide social interaction with more people in one ride. Some felt that groups could be 10 to 12, or even 12 to 14. We would need more discipline to successfully split these larger groups on the road into small bunches – this has been a challenge in the past.

Multi-ability: It was also stated that we need to cater for everyone, of different abilities. We need to make speed/ability/star category clear. There was some good feedback on the current star category system (1* to 5*) and the publishing of RWGPS routes with distance and climbing on them, with a suggestion that new joiners should be encouraged to start with a 2* ride and work up.

Designated route list: The main purpose of the designated route list is to ensure that, during the Covid restrictions, each group goes in a different direction with minimal overlapping of routes, so that there is no possibility we can be seen as breaking the Covid rules.

There were **requests** for the following (mostly pending resumption of group rides, of course), which the committee will consider and try to accommodate:

1. An intermediate (between fast and regular ride), say at 9:10 on a Tuesday
2. If the number of routes cannot be increased, then at least a re-balancing of the route list so routes are in approximate proportion to the number of that star-level ride each week. For instance, if 60% of rides are 4* then approximately 60% of routes should also be. This can be looked at. Additionally, Ed pointed out that there is the option to select the “Contact Ride Leader” route, and also that any route can be ridden in the reverse direction to that plotted.
3. A 2* ride on a Tuesday.
4. Another Wednesday group, while groups are limited to 6
5. A waiting list facility on the booking sheet
6. Some off-road rides. Clive agreed to set up some gravel riding taster sessions. Riders would need something like a gravel bike or a mountain bike (hard-tail would be OK).

There were also some **suggestions**, all of which were accepted:

1. More prominent address for the booking sheet, on Facebook and other places, aimed at helping those not familiar with technology so they can make their own bookings easily.
Action: Andrew will implement this

2. Howard suggested we recommend that our members load the What3Words app on their mobile phones. This app will identify any location in the world to within a three-metre square, so the location can be given to emergency services – it is recommended by a number of services in the UK.
Action: committee to include on website and social media, and in next newsletter.
3. Clive suggested we recommend that our members obtain identity tags with emergency contact details on them, so that if a rider becomes unconscious for any reason, emergency contacts can be notified as soon as possible (in parallel with ambulance service).
Action: Clive to send details to Ed, to progress this.

6. Next AGM, including Election of Officers

Andrew explained that, due to the one-off extension to Cycling UK's financial year, we will have our AGM in mid-March. It may be on Zoom, or maybe physical (e.g., at the Hart Centre) if the Covid situation and general prudence allow.

The agenda will include election of officers. Any member is welcome to put themselves forward for an officer post, and some current officers would welcome the chance to hand over the baton, e.g., Colin would like to hand over the Treasurer role, and Andrew would be happy to hand over the Secretary role this year or next.

Action: Andrew will agree a date with the committee, and ensure it is publicised in the newsletter and on the website – including a note about potential new officers.

7. Club Kit

Colin explained that, with the current level of orders, the club would have to subsidise by buying stock kit to the cost of more than £700, and that sadly it did not seem a good use of the club funds. Some attendees therefore agreed to promote the club kit, and its fine quality, to riders on their rides, to try to get more orders.

8. AOB

Clive and others thanked the committee for their work within Fleet Cycling.

Andrew said that there was a recording of the meeting, automatically generated by Zoom (because we have taken out one month's subscription to Zoom Pro). He asked if anyone objected to the recording being issued to attendees, especially given that one or two had joined late. There were no objections.