



Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 21st May 2020

Minute

Meeting held via Skype.

Present:, David Fleming, Stephen Cook, Scott Sinclair, Denise Robertson, Jack Douglas, Paul Singer, Ian Elmslie, Raymond Cowan, Tom Boyle, Ian Cruickshank, Steve Lawrie

In Attendance: Dino Becci.

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16th April 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Raymond Cowan and seconded by Tom Boyle.

As with previous month given the current situation no reports were presented other than Financials.

2. Captains Update

David opened the meeting:

Today's announcement from the Scottish Government allowing the return some format of golf from 29th of May has been followed up by Scottish Golf who will be issuing more specific guidelines for clubs to adhere to. Let's park that for the moment and discuss later in the week and do a set of guidelines specific to Portlethen Golf Club members once we've been able to study the general guidelines that have literally just been published.

Our financial position is now our main consideration after receiving a rejection, just yesterday, for the second tranche of grant funding for which we applied. We have received no reasoning for this simply an e-mail advising that we were unsuccessful. We are following up however.

We do continue to receive furloughed employee support.

The course is ready for golf although growth rate is increasing and we have had no major issues with walkers etc. Thanks in particular to Neil and Tom for some great work.

The main subject as I said is the finances and I'll now ask Tom to step in.

3. Finances

A revised projection for the financial year had been distributed prior to the meeting which incorporated unpaid subscription and club lottery income, expenditure reduced to an absolute minimum and reducing the costs for furloughed staff to nil.

We have assumed only 2 greenkeepers, which may be somewhat optimistic if the growth rate continues at the current pace.

Clubhouse staff will be reduced to 80% pay from 1st June although recent announcements indicate the employers will be expected to contribute from August. There are as yet no details on this yet.

We have not amended any projections in terms of other income lines.

This still leaves us over £20k short of our target deficit, if we had received one of the £25,000 grants we'd be ok but as we were unsuccessful how do we make up the difference? Although as has already been stated we will likely need to bring back more greens staff that these projections allow given the growth rates currently experiencing.

The message is clear in that if we don't act now we will run out of cash, things may come back in terms of memberships and corporates etc but that can be taken as a bonus going into next year.

We suggest a levy of £100 on all playing members which would generate £53,000 on a flat scale or £47,000 on a pro-rata dependant on membership category. A separate breakdown document has been distributed.

Discussion and debate on the impact of a levy was discussed at length by all present including the idea of releasing a batch of life memberships. This was seen as simply "kicking the issue down the road" and will catch up with us further down the line.

Tom proposed that a £100 obligatory levy be imposed on all playing, life and honorary members.

The proposal was seconded by David Fleming and put to the vote. The proposal was carried by 7 votes for with 3 against (one Committee member lost connection to the meeting)

Members would be given until 30th June to pay in full, given the option to pay in 4 monthly instalments or to contact the club by that date to discuss an alternative solution in the case of possible financial hardships.

The question was raised as to whether could use their £50 bar levy was tabled and would be looked at.

A communication would be sent out to members without delay.

4. Other Business

Furloughed Staff : For the record it was agreed that furloughed staff be reduced to 80% normal pay from 1st June in line with projected figures. Staff will be advised and issued revised furlough agreements.

Competitive Golf: No decision as yet regarding medals etc.

This year's Champion of Champions has been postponed until next year when fresh draws will be made where entries from 2020 will be joined by any champions from this year where clubs have managed to complete such a competition.

Scottish Golf affiliation Fees: Clubs have been credited with 25% of this years fees.

Back to Golf Guidelines: We will work on these over the next few days and distribute drafts for discussion and final agreement before issuing to members.

Pro-shop: Clarity on shop recent shop activity was sought. It was confirmed that David Pocock had only been accepting on-line, collection only orders.

Next meeting Thursday 18th June 2020