

Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting of Forrest Little Golf Club

Held at: The Clubhouse on Thursday 6th December 2018 at 8.00 p.m.

Chairman: Peter Reilly opened the meeting and welcomed members present.

The Honorary Secretary, Theresa Mc Mahon confirmed that a quorum of 40 members was present and read the notice convening the meeting. The Chairman declared the meeting open and welcomed the members present. 85 members signed the attendance sheet.

A minute's silence was then held for all deceased members.

Apologies: - Brian Howe, Linda Guiden Daly, Ann Cummins, Joan Maher, Mary Moynihan, Joyce Moran, Margaret Mc Cormack, Aisling Kennedy, Marie O Rorke.

Adoption of Standing Orders as follows.

Speakers asked to come to the podium at the front to speak and to speak only once on any topic or motion.

1) The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 7th December 2017, having been circulated in advance were proposed and adopted.

Proposed: Niamh Mc Mahon Seconded: Simon Fitzpatrick

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2) The minutes of the 2018 EGM on 2nd August 2018, having been circulated in advance were proposed and adopted.

Proposed: Martin Kelly Seconded: Paddy Robinson

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3) Honorary Secretary's Report Theresa Mc Mahon

The Honorary Secretary's report, having been circulated in advance, was proposed and adopted.

Proposed: Maeve Duffy Seconded: Mark Byrne

There were no questions arising from the Honorary Secretary's report

4) Honorary Treasurer's Report Gerry Healy

The Honorary Treasurer's report, having already been circulated in advance, was proposed and adopted.

Proposed: Harry Reilly Seconded: Paddy Quaid

5) Presentations

1. The Honorary Treasurer Gerry Healy went through the presentation attached to clarify aspects of the Financial Report

Highlights:- Operating expenditure down €8k Income down €6 K, Operating surplus €54 K, Development levy & grant €98k

Bank Borrowings now €429K + €11K to be paid back in Jan. In 2010 it was €914K, so great progress made here. Key is we need to generate enough money to meet bank repayments. FL has never missed a bank payment this is very positive. Total income for the year €717k Total expenditure for year €663K. FL finances are tight,

but we are managing. Going forward: - need to increase membership, possibly increase Green fees, encourage members to pay fees on time. Need to control cash flow. Up grade club facilities with any surplus finance.

In closing, Gerry thanked his Subcommittee of Maeve Duffy, Siobhan Garvey, Sean Dooley, our auditor Kevin Hampson, Gerry also thanked Jonny Lonergan, Vincent Collier and Pat Mc Gann for their contribution to the work of the financial focus group and Sean & Margaret in office and Captain Ray Gregan and Council for all their support during the year.

Gerry invited questions of which there were none.

2. Marketing and Membership Presentation

Peter Duffy started by welcoming new members to FL and stressed there were 78 new members this year. He thanked Geraldine Finnegan for the great work she did with the ladies Get into Golf Initiative which had been a tremendous success.

Peter went through his slide deck about membership including a breakdown of our membership and that like last year the critical need to address the imbalance in our membership. His graph showed various categories of membership and the turnover in those categories. He talked of the rise in Intermediates, the future of the club and how we need to continue to attract new members. He highlighted the success of the new membership offers, 2017 adverts, the membership outlook and why choose Forrest little and why members leave- mainly age family commitments and ill health. The course is in great nick and this was our selling point. Peter asked for volunteers to assist with a push for increase in Digital Profile. New road signage to be erected by county council should further highlight FL. "Ladies into Golf" this year and he took us through his plans for 2019 which would include the possibility of introducing entrance fee in 2020. He thanked the Marketing sub-committee. He thanked Siobhan Garvey with assistance with interviews. He also thanked Vincent Collier for his continued support on our website along with Sean Dunne and Margaret in the office.

Peter invited questions:

Martin Kelly asked was there any analysis available on why members were leaving the club Peter confirmed from our own numbers ill health was the main reason, 5% to join other Golf clubs/ take up different sports for time commitment reasons.

Brid Snow commented that road signs were important especially the junction at from new road.

Martine Denihan had strong belief in having entrance fee, thought this would extract Loyalty from members and asked why we are not proud of FL and entrance fee would encourage pride.

PD responded it was up for discussion in 2019

Alan Clarke asked if the club would be interested in having an Open club day for locals it might generate interest from the local business and residential community. Members thought this was a good idea.

Joe Cummins thought it was a major decision to re-introduce an Entrance fee at this time while the course was great the club house facilities were poor until we offer something better at club house level it might do more harm than good.

Perter responded it was at early stages of discussion no decision was made.

3. Course & Greens Presentation

Sean Hyland, Course & Greens Chairman gave a presentation updating members. Sean's agenda was Highlights, Difficulties and Volunteers work.

He took us through the slide deck - difficulties were cold wet spring, extremely dry Summer, break into the machinery shed, storm damage and need to purchase new machinery going forward.

Highlights were the new water tank installation, Senior course. New fairway mower, and the engagement of Carr Golf.

He gave great praise for the work of Carr golf since they started and highly commended the work of the Volunteer group especially in clearing up after the storms which was extremely hard work and for the other projects undertaken all around the course. We did not have to pay for the work they do.

He also stressed that we had 5 full time staff working on the course 4 were our own staff and one Diarmuid and regional superintendent Andrieu all pulling together for the benefit of the course and results can be seen. He wished Geoff Scott well in his new position.

In conclusion Sean thanked Paul Keane for his assistance with the Senior course, the Course & Greens committee, the volunteer group and Sean Dunne whose knowledge was shared freely and thought he was a great asset to FL.

Sean invited questions of which there were none.

Harry Sheppard thought the course was in the best shape ever and the best it had been for 50 years. This was agreed by those present.

6) Election of Officers and Council Members

Honorary Secretary

Proposed:

Theresa McMahon

Peter Reilly

Seconded: Imelda Dunne

Peter & Imelda spoke on Theresa's behalf giving praise for her work during 2018, long standing member with strong family connections to FL

Honorary Treasurer

Proposed:

Maeve Duffy

Gerry Healy

Seconded: Padraic Robinson

Gerry & Padraic spoke on Maeve's behalf giving praise for her work to the club in the past saying the treasurer's role was in safe hands, long standing member, long family tradition in FL and she would be diligent worker.

Both were deemed elected on a show of hands

Council members (4)

Nominee

Peter Reilly

Sean Hyland

Peter Duffy

Shay Lacey

Paddy Mc Mahon

Proposed:

Peter Duffy

Ray Gregan

Paddy Quaid

Peter Reilly

Mick Kearney

Seconded:

Theresa McMahon

Peter Reilly

Michael Denihan

Padraic Robinson

James Doyle

Each of the proposers and seconders spoke on behalf of the respective nominees

As there were 5 nominees for the four positions a vote of the members took place. Scrutineers for the count were Donal Hampson, Liam Mc Mahon and Martin Kelly.

Voting slips were passed to all present entitled to vote. Each voter was asked to nominate a max of 4 names on the ballot sheets.

7) Election of Auditors

Hayden Brown were Proposed by Gerry Healy and Seconded by Ray Gregan

Carried on a show of hands

8) Notices of Motion

Motion 1

Proposed by Padraic Robinson Seconded by Michael Kearney

Speaking for the motion Padraic proposed that in keeping with new legislation proposal was to remove wording "Good Friday" from wording in rule. MK concurred with proposal

11. Refreshments

No member of the Council and no manager or servant employed in the club shall have any personal interest in the sale of excisable liquors therein or on the profits arising from such sale.

No excisable liquor shall be supplied for consumption on the club premises to any person (other than a member of the Club lodging in the Club premises) or be consumed on those premises by any person (other than such a member)-

- (a) at any time of Christmas Day or Good Friday, or
- (b) on any other day specified in Section 3 of the Act outside of the following times-

Motion 1 to amend the above rule to read as follows: -

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- (a) at any time of Christmas Day
- (b) on any other day specified in Section 3 of the Act outside of the following times-

Motion was carried on a show of hands.

Motion 2

Proposer: Susan Cullen

Second: Adrienne Timmons

To amend local Rule on score card:

Item No 6 reads:

Artificially Surfaced pathways, these are an Integral part of the course:

I would like to propose that this be:

amended to "Relief from artificial surfaced pathways (Rule 24.2)

Susan spoke on behalf of the motion saying that playing off artificial surfaces was dangerous and most other clubs gave relief in these circumstances. Adrienne Timmons supported the motion by stating that mats were not natural parts of the course and there should be relief from them.

Harry Reilly thought it was a good proposal.

Joe Cummins thought it was important to define where path start and ends. What would be the ruling with mats on bridges?

In response Adrienne Timmons said the bridges were well defined as part of the hazards and that the mats near the bridges were artificial and not natural.

In clarification P Reilly stated that it was not a "change in the club rules as such, but a change in a Local rule and would be recommended to Course and Greens Committee" to amend.

Motion was carried on a show of hands.

Motion 3

Council Motion to amend Rule 4.5.17

Proposed by: Gerry Healy

Seconded by: Peter Duffy

In speaking for the motion Gh stated that this rule was amended at the EGM, but it caused some confusion in its interpretation and there for in the interest of clarity the words

"in the relevant subscription year" be added. This would mean that the qualification for the Over 80 would kick in if you turned 80 in the current tear in which the fee falls due.

Peter Duffy in support of the motion says the change was in the interest of fairness and so all would be clear of the situation and qualification for members who are in the over 80'S category

Proposal:

4.5.17. The Council shall have the power to elect as an Over 80's Member any Senior Member or Senior Lady Associate, who has had 15 years or more continuous membership and has reached the age of 80 years.

To read

4.5.17. The Council shall have the power to elect as an Over 80's Member any Senior Member or Senior Lady Associate, who has had 15 years or more continuous membership and who will attain the age of 80 years or over in the relevant subscription year.

E Ryan asked if the rule would now be the same as before

In response GH said yes

This motion was carried by a show of hands.

Motion 4

Proposed by Jack Scullion Seconded Andy Walsh

"Having consulted widely I and several other members feel that the moved and passed at the last E.GM regarding the increase in the senior annual subscription is grossly inequitable. I do not accept that the additional funds are required to keep the club running to a standard that we can all be proud of but targeting one section of the club is unfair.

I therefore propose that the annual loyalty card charge be scrapped, as I feel that the proceeds of this do not go directly to the running of the club and replaced with a levy on all members commensurate with their membership status the amount to be by the incoming committee. This proposal I am sure will raise the required finance, in a fair and equitable way, to enable us to provide the services required to keep the club running smoothly and in a financially prudent way for the benefit of all its members.

I respectfully request that you put my proposal on the agenda, under the heading "Motions" in the upcoming AGM for the consideration of all in Attendance. I look forward to presenting my motion on the night and earnestly request your support for my proposal."

Speaking on behalf of the motion as submitted Jack thought it unfair that the levy of €200 was grossly unfair and targeted one group his motion was to scrap the loyalty card in favour of a levy imposed on all members in different categories and council should do this

In supporting the motion Andy Walsh said he was a member for 11 years and played with group of Senior members for last 11 years. He was in favour of scrapping Loyalty car levy as it targeted small section of club members and this was unfair.

In response G Healy said that motion was carried at EGM and change in the levy was not targeting any one group. A lot of work and research was done for EGM esp. what other clubs were doing. All sections were looked at no section was targeted. It was not clear what motion was proposing. Over 80's has a €950 discount on full membership in FL, other clubs are doing away with senior discounts. It takes €700k to run the club each year and all members must meet that bill. No targeting took place.

Joe Fitzpatrick – disagreed with Jack Scullion, felt that imposing levy on Over 80s or any other section was unfair and was opposed to the proposal of Jack.

Niamh Mc Mahon- if motion was to go to a vote, she was not clear on what was proposed. Club need the Loyalty Card levy, or we would have no bar or no catering and therefore no need for clubhouse.

In Response J Scullion said he would leave it to the council to decide about the levy as long as it was fair across the board. Loyalty card was not fair to everyone across the board. Loyalty card should not be there at all. D Hampson on a point of clarification stated that a committee or council cannot change rule that was passed at an EGM or AGM.

P Duffy explained that the new rule was discussed at an information night and at an EGM and these new rules needed time to be assessed. Levy of €200 worked out at €3.84 per week, the price of a coffee or pint. If we don't have Loyalty card, we may as well shut down. We are not a business, we are a member's club. J Scullion in response said he was hoping not to have to say this, but it is not fair for seniors to have to pay €200 as well as Ordinary members.

Martine Denihan stated that a lot of members here might not see Senior membership discounts, but we must be loyal to the club and try to support it.

Peter Murphy stated that we cannot vote on the motion as presented. It was not clear on what is being proposed. G Healy stated that fees and loyalty cards were already voted on at the EGM.

Willie Clinton asked why we should support a private enterprise running the kitchen as that's where the loyalty money is going.

S Hyland said that Loyalty card was to encourage members to come in and support the club. If we want a club with a bar and kitchen, we need the Loyalty card. As to profits there is nobody making a fortune in the catering end and if we want a catering facility and want to keep it, we must support it.

J Scullion was asked if he wanted to withdraw the motion, he said no.

Motion went to a vote and was defeated on a show of hands.

9) Results of ballot for Council Nominees was announced:

Peter Reilly, Sean Hyland, Peter Duffy and Shay Lacey were elected on vote count.

Peter Reilly thanked Paddy Mc Mahon for putting himself forward.

AOB

1) Forrest Little Strategy update 2018

Peter Reilly took us through the strategy slides update which the Council had worked on during 2018. He covered all listed topics such as our strengths and weaknesses, a list of tasks achieved and the areas yet outstanding as per our wish list. He spoke of the positive impact the improvement of the course had for members and newcomers, He spoke of our exploration of funding options and stated that an asset sale was only one option - we were also exploring other assets the Club had. Peter Reilly asked Ray Gregan to update members on news re land sales in which he said the enquiries with neighbours stated that there was no land for

sale or the be swapped at the present time. We will continue to open our other land at the back of the 8th Tee box.

Peter Reilly said that we were working our way down the list of further work which included as priority upgrade of men's toilets and club house facilities, Machinery replacement and further upgrade of the course, Peter said we were making good progress and said the strategy was a 5-year strategy and council will continue to work on it.

On completion of the slides he invited questions:

No questions were forthcoming.

2) Members Loan Proposal

Gerry Healy talked members through slide presentation on possibility of idea proposed to him by some members. Asset sale was a long way down the line but still open as an option.

Proposal was current bank Loan €400k option was to seek a member's loan from 40 members @ €10 k clear the loan from the bank and save interest of €64 k in return members would be repaid €1250 per annum for loan and in year 9 receive a bonus of €500 which would be more than interest earned from bank on deposit.

GH just putting idea out there and asked if anybody interested would come to him in confidence

On completion of the slides he invited questions:

No questions were forthcoming.

3) **Prize Bond Draw** Garry Dempsey performed the Prize Bond Draw. He thanked all those who supported the Bond Scheme as it helps a lot as it reduces our interest and debt. Prizes each year are subject to the number of bonds purchased, these are subject to review every year.

The winning bond numbers were: -

Prize value	Bond No
€1500	285
€600	92
€400	321
€200	006
€200	271
€200	181
€200	88
€200	91

4) **Sale of Land-** Joe Cummins stated that our best asset was our 11 Acres. It was rezoned, and we should try to get Planning Permission for it and build something on it. We should talk to Baily about it. If De-zoned, we lose the best asset we have.

5) **Social Committee** Adrienne Timmons thanked Nicky Lowdes, Paddy Quaid and Maria Robinson for their help throughout the year and spoke of support for Find the Joker.

6) Hand- over of Badge of Office and Blazers

Lady President Rita presented Ann Guiden with her 2019 President's Blazer and Ann spoke thanking Rita for her nomination and she thanked the members for their generous support.

President Harry presented Paddy Quaid with his 2019 President's Blazer and Paddy spoke about his honour on taking up this role. He thanked Harry for his nomination.

Outgoing Lady Captain Laura spoke about her tremendous year and she thanked her committee, the Council and the members for their support over 2018. Laura then presented Imelda with her Captain's jacket and brooch. Imelda spoke of her delight at becoming Lady Captain and promised to do her very best for the club

Outgoing Captain Ray presented incoming Captain Padraic with his Jacket and tiepin. Ray thanked all members for their support during the year and he felt it was a great honour to represent the Club. He also complimented the outgoing council for their tremendous work.

Padraic was delighted, and honoured, to be elected Captain and hoped to do justice to the role. He mentioned that he and his father would be the first Father and son to be Captains and this was a great honour. He hoped to do everything he could in 2019 for the members.

The meeting closed at 10.20

Theresa Mc Mahon
Honorary Secretary