



Campaign for Real Ale
Stroud CAMRA
Minutes 8th May 2024



1. Attendance & Apologies

Attendees: Bob Brooks, Andy Burston, Bob Fletcher, George Hill, Tony Hill, Andy Long, John McMahon.

Apologies: Nick Bishop, Tim Mars.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting/Action Status/Matters Arising

a. April Minutes.

Corrections identified for the April minutes are in Para 6 - Spring Gold Card Allocations, column 4 heading should read Complete & the [REDACTED] assessment was completed 03/04/24

Action #1 Tony Hill

b. Action Updates

Reference	Description	Actionee	Status
Jan #2	Corner House Pubzilla survey/update needed (moved location)	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Feb #6	Investigate/propose weekday evening bus social to Nailsworth	Bob Fletcher	Complete
Mar #5	Kings Head Kings Stanley community group to be put in touch with CAMRA Help (Paul Ainsworth)	Tim Mars	Ongoing
Apr #1	March minutes has April meeting date incorrect at the bottom – update needed	Tony Hill	Complete
Apr #2	Tim Mars to speak at Nymphsfield village meeting convened to save the Rose and Crown on the benefits a community run pub can bring.	Tim Mars	Complete
Apr #3	Stroud CAMRA to write letter of objection on change of use of the Old Neighbourhood pub into residential	Tony Hill	Complete
Apr #4	Organise COTY presentation for 19 th May	Tim Mars	Complete
Apr #5	Survey Bear, Bisley & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Apr #6	Survey Star, Whiteshill & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Ongoing
Apr #7	Survey Vine Tree, Randwick & update Pubzilla	Andy Burston	Ongoing

c. Matters Arising

None.

3. Officers Briefings

a. Chairs Report

The chair Tony Hill explained that there had been two meetings of the Branch since the last Stroud meeting, the AGM on 17th April and the bimonthly Branch meeting on the 7th May. There was really too much material to present in the time so it was agreed to upload to the Stroud CAMRA WhatsApp group to allow interested parties to read.

Bob Brooks asked if any of the Gloucestershire branch posts were changed at the AGM. The chair responded that all existing officers were happy to continue in role and there were no new candidates so therefore no change. He went on to explain that there are still open roles at Branch level and Richard Holt (branch secretary) had Emailed all members outlining the opportunities for volunteering and had only a single response from an existing volunteer worried about his tenure.

Action #2 Tony Hill

b. Pub Officers report

Tim Mars had submitted apologies, but submitted this report to be delivered by the chair:

I attended a meeting of the Nympsfield Community Pub group on Saturday 23 April 2024 on behalf of Stroud CAMRA. It was spread over two sessions to cope with the level of interest. In all, nearly 100 people attended.

I was scheduled to make 'a few opening remarks', like a mayor opening a fête. I said I'd rather listen to the other speakers setting out the background to the campaign and complement them with a rousing finale. Which they readily agreed to. (The standard Churchillian guff about 'We shall fight them in the four-ale bar, we shall fight them in the skittle alleys, we shall fight them on the picnic tables, we shall never surrender.') Concluding with this warning from Hilaire Belloc:

'When you have lost your inns, go drown your empty selves for you will have lost the last of England.'

It seemed to go down well. I received this thanks from Matthew Burke, chair of Nympsfield Community Pub Steering Group.

'On behalf of the Nympsfield Community Pub group, I would like to thank you for giving up your Saturday afternoon to support our public meeting. Your closing remarks were captivating and I very much appreciate the kind words you said about us and our project.'

I'm not sure about 'captivating' but I hope they did the trick. I was certainly very complementary about their group and the research they'd already done.

Of all the community pub buy-out groups I have been involved with, the Nympsfield group is by far the most competent, well-briefed and realistic. If that were all that was required to guarantee a successful outcome, it would be a shoe-in.

<https://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/24275134.campaign-continues-reopen-rose-crown-nympsfield/>

They also have the support of the Liverpool-based freeholder who wants to wash his hands of what he clearly regards as a millstone. Though he would obviously sell to any interest party.

I attach a PDF of the presentation slide deck shown at each of the meetings.

Note the PDF was over 30 pages so was not printed out/read at the meeting, it was agreed to upload to the CAMRA WhatsApp group to allow interested parties to read:

Action #3 Tony Hill

c. Pub Data Officer's Report

Andy Burston explained that the sheer volume of licensee changes was creating a Pubzilla workload that is difficult for him to sustain and that there was a backlog developing for pub data survey/updates. He both thanked members for survey help and asked for continued help, also outlining the recent success in combining a social with two pub updates, Brittonia and Village Inn.

4. Threatened Pubs

Currently we have three threatened pubs, for which community groups are working to save, the Rose & Crown – Nympsfield, the Old Neighbourhood - Chalford and the Kings Head - Kings Stanley.

a. Rose & Crown – Nympsfield

See Pubs officers report.

b. Old Neighbourhood - Chalford

Stroud CAMRA wrote a letter of objection to the change of use planning application (Public House to Private Home):

Old Neighbourhood, Chalford Hill Planning Application (S.24/0485/FUL)

The Stroud Branch of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) objects to the application for change of use to residential of the Old Neighbourhood Inn, Chalford Hill (S.24/0485/FUL).

Stroud CAMRA believes that the pub in the right hands, despite efforts by the owner to show otherwise, could be a successful, viable and profitable enterprise and we would make the following observations and comments in respect of the application:

The separation of the car park from the pub may be considered a deliberate attempt to undermine the viability of the pub.

There is a strong community feeling, resulting in sufficient support to generate the necessary evidence presented to SDC (Stroud District Council) for the granting of an ACV (Asset of Community Value).

The economics of a community-owned/community-run enterprise do not follow the norms held up by the applicant in attempting to show the pub as unviable. The following factors all play to the potential viability of the establishment as a community-run enterprise:

- *The venture can operate on a not-for-profit basis*
- *A feeling of ownership by the community resulting in increased support and higher turnover*
- *Potential for voluntary inputs*
- *The community may shape the business to the needs/wants of the community to maximise support, footfall and turnover, free of the shackles of any landlord/pubco*

- *A community-run venture is free of any tie, which massively improves the business profitability*

The Plunkett Foundation cites a success rate of community-run pubs of 99%, source

[<https://plunkett.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Plunkett-Foundation-Better-Business-Report-2021-Community-Pubs.pdf>]

We hope that you review our points carefully and reject the application for change of use.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Hill

Chairman - Stroud CAMRA

Letters of objection were also written by Siobhan Baillie, Cllr Tricia Watson & Chalford Parish Council all with powerful arguments. There are 236 documents associated with this planning application and we await the planning committee's deliberation.

c. Kings Head - Kings Stanley

The following is an update from the Kings Head Committee on the 28/04/2024:

Since the village meeting we have been setting up a fuller steering committee with the required skills and have been establishing priority of requirements.

In order to proceed with anything we have a short term goal of raising £6,000 for professional fees. Without raising this money we cannot assess the viability of the pub business and will not be able to apply for grant funding.

URGENT PLEASE HELP – Our timing is unfortunate. There is a Government grant worth £250,000 which we need to apply for but the deadline is early June. After this date the fund closes. We need to raise this £6,000 by 10th May in order that we have all the financial information to enable us to submit the grant application.

WITHOUT YOUR HELP – we cannot proceed. You can help by going to this page www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/kings-head-community-pub.

There are rewards for donations and a chance of a free drink once the pub is open!

PLEASE ALSO share with anyone who you think can help.

HELP SAVE THE KINGS HEAD – DONATE HERE

Further information:

Steering committee now consists of:

Robert Faulkner

Deborah Smyth

Stephen Hynd

Sue Stokes

Hayley Parker

Roy Arbon

- *The steering committee has now met 4 times*
- *We have achieved coverage in the Stroud News and Stroud Times*

- We are resubmitting the application to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value
- We plan to run a fund raising and information event at the village fete
- We have requested the support of Siobhan Baillie MP
- We are in the process of developing the business plan and grant applications
- We have joined the Plunket Foundation who can provide support in this process
- We have submitted forms to the FCA to register as a Community Benefit Society
- We have opened a bank account to received donations and set up a crowd funding page.

5. 2024 Summer Gold Card Allocations

A partial allocation was completed for Summer gold cards was agreed as follows taking account of previous allocations:

Venue	Location	Spring Assessors	Summer Assessors
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	All March Meeting	All June Meeting
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Nick Bishop Bob Fletcher	George Hill John McMahon
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Andy Burston John McMahon	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tony Hill Bob Fletcher	Andy Burston George Hill
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Bob Brooks Andy Burston	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	George Hill John McMahon	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	George Hill Tony Hill	Bob Brooks Bob Fletcher
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	John McMahon Andy Long	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tony Hill Andy Burston	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	George Hill Bob Fletcher	Bob Brooks Andy Long
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tim Mars Andy Long	Andy Burston John McMahon
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Tim Mars Bob Brooks	

Note on Gold cards could all judges please capture the price information and measure the beer temperature where possible.

6. C-POTY, COTY Presentation Planning

Carps was in the Randwick Runner

Friday 17th May at 19:30 is the proposed date for presentation of the County Cider POTY award to the Carpenters Arms, Westrip.

The winner of the 2024 COTY award was Chalford Sports & Social Club. A date was not available in April and two dates in May were offered. We have settled on 19th May since Andrew Frape of Glos CAMRA can support this to allow a double presentation.

7. Breweries Update

The Fresh Standard Brewing Co, no news.

Keep Brewing, no news.

Stroud Brewery is having an 18th celebration:

FOR OUR 18TH BIRTHDAY! 🍷 Join us for an epic festival on June 7th, 8th, and 9th! Get ready for exclusive brews, delicious food, live tunes, and unforgettable moments. Let's celebrate in style!

8. April Social/Future Socials

Bob Fletcher kindly organised a weekday evening trip to Nailsworth on the 30th April:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StroudCAMRA/permalink/3834736286763442/>

Six of us met at the Britannia Nailsworth where there were two beers on offer, the Wadworth 6x and Mad Goose Purity. A gentle stroll from there across to the Village Inn was proposed and conducted. There we found four real ales on offer, three from Keep Brewing (the Brewery in the basement of the pub) and one guest. The regular Keep Brewing Voyager, and Heart of Gold was joined by Keep Brewing Moon Base, a rather nice Milk Stout. The fourth was from St Austell, Anthem. The Keep Brewing Milk Stout was particularly good and encouraged the ordering of a second pint.

Whilst there the subject of future socials was discussed and two were proposed one of which will see us off -piste to stray into Gloucester CAMRA's territory.

- Black Horse, Cranham (reopened as a community venture) & possible onward Painswick.
- Bear Inn Bisley (reopened with new managers) & possible onward to Stirrup Cup

Action #4 Bob Fletcher

9. Pub Data/Surveys

CAMRA have launched a new website for WhatPub:

<https://www1.camra.org.uk/pubs>

Whilst others were enjoying the social in Nailsworth – Andy Burston and Tony Hill took the opportunity to capture data for Pubzilla/WhatPub updates.

Village Inn fully updated on WhatPub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0746/village-inn-nailsworth>

Britannia fully updated on WhatPub:

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/GLO/0603/britannia-nailsworth>

Black Horse, Cranham reopened on 04/05/2024 under community ownership. They don't seem to have a website and their Facebook page is very quiet for a new opening. Mixed reports with one praising the Sunday roast and another criticising the pretentious food menu (no pub grub).

Globe Inn, Stonehouse is being advertised by Stonegate who are seeking new tenants.

Pub survey data should be captured on the form provided in our WhatsApp group and returned to Andy Burston or Tony Hill. As many Photos as possible should be taken in landscape format and again returned to the aforementioned. Outstanding surveys are as follows:

Pub	Reason	Surveyor
Cross Hands, Stroud	Aged data	Andy Burston/Jez Waring
Fostons Ash, Birdlip	Tenancy Changes	Bob Fletcher
Royal Oak Inn, North Woodchester	Aged data	TBD
Fountain, Stroud	Tenancy Changes	Jez Waring and Bob Blenkinsop
Waypoint, Painswick	Tenancy Changes	Bob Fletcher
Vine Tree, Randwick	Tenancy Changes	
Star Inn, Whiteshill	Landlord Changes	
The Bear Inn, Bisley	Tenancy Changes	

10. Any Other Business

The Chair cannot attend the August monthly meeting – the committee were asked if they would like a delegate or reschedule. Decision was made for Andy Burston to chair retaining the existing date.

The chair raised the prospect of a pub walk taking in the Vine Tree at Randwick and the Star Inn at Whiteshill to be held on a weekend date. Primary purpose would be surveying (see list above) but in nice weather the walk is lovely. Note that it is steep and a level of fitness would be needed for this.

Action #5 Tony Hill

We are short of a photographer for the 17th and 19th May events – can anyone help. The committee came up empty so it was proposed to ask via Facebook.

Action #6 Tony Hill

Date and time of the next meeting

Wednesday 12th June at 19:30. chair@stroud.camra.org.uk

Stroud CAMRA Calendar 2024

Date 2024	Event	Venue
Tue 9 th January	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 10 th January	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 31st January	2025 GBG ranked list of 10 to be submitted to Branch. Updates to GBG descriptions commence	N/A
1 st – 3 rd February	Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival	Watson Hall, Tewkesbury
Wed 14 th February	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Spring GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
15 th – 17 th February	Great British Beer Festival - Winter	Burton Town Hall
Thur 29th February	Deadline for all 2025 GBG descriptions to be entered in Pubzilla	N/A
Tue 12 th March	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 13 th March	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 10 th April	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
26 th - 28 th April	CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference	Caird Hall in Dundee
Tue 7 th May	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 8 th May	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Spring GC assessments conclude Summer GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
Mid-May	2025 GBG Proofs are received	N/A
Fri 31st May	2025 GBG Proofs are approved	N/A
Wed 12 th June	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Tue 9 th July	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 10 th July	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 14 th August	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Summer GC assessments conclude Autumn GC Assessments allocated	The Ale House 7.30pm
19 th - 21 st July	Cotswold beer festival.	Postlip Hall Tithe Barn
Wed 10 th September	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 11 th September	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 9 th October	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 12 th November	Gloucestershire Branch Meeting	Pelican upstairs 7:30pm
Wed 13 th November	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting Autumn GC Assessments conclude POTY candidates determined and Shortlist for 2026 GBG finalised	The Ale House 7.30pm
Wed 11 th December	Stroud CAMRA Monthly Meeting	The Ale House 7.30pm