

Council Electronic Agenda Updates

Dear Delegates

The appointment of a company to examine the company's accounts for the ensuing year is a standard item on the agenda for each Electoral Meeting. It is mandatory by Byelaw 9 (2 (d)). Like the elections and the signing off of the 2019 accounts it couldn't happen in the usual way this year, but provision was made within the agreed resolutions for publication on the website so that if there are any objections they can be sent.

This is to let you know that now our 2019 statutory accounts are at last published on the Companies House website, there is a proposal from the Board to change the accountants used by GCCF. This decision is open to scrutiny. Please discuss with your club officers and committee members if you so wish, but note that only delegates may make any comment or objection. The proposal can be seen on the electronic agenda

<https://www.gccfcats.org/current-council-meeting>

and the rationale is as stated:

Practitioners to examine the 2020 GCCF Accounts - Rationale for Change

This year the Board's proposal is that Albert Goodman of Taunton should be the company to do examine the GCCF's company accounts and submit the statutory returns, as a replacement for Monahans of Bath. There is dissatisfaction with the quality of service provided by Monhans coupled with a loss confidence of in their ability to provide an adequate service commensurate with the fee to be charged. <https://albertgoodman.co.uk>

Details that would have been presented at Council are:

Monahans picked up GCCF business in June 2016, after a merger with O'Hara Wood and the death of Adrian Wood who had looked after the GCCF accounts for many years, guiding our organisation through its transition to a limited company. After Adrian there was never the same personal touch and recently costs have escalated considerably.

2017 - £4950 + VAT 2016 accounts

2018 - £5200 + VAT 2017 accounts

2019 - £13505 + VAT - Includes full audit 2018 accounts

2020 - £8558 + VAT 2019 accounts

Note: 2020 is a dramatic increase on 2018 for the same service as 2017 & 2018. The only reason supplied (without any accompanying breakdown) was that our bookkeeper asked more questions. On investigation it was established that many queries resulted from Monahans not acting on information already provided and/or having to be corrected, (such as publication of the 2018 Supreme accounts instead of those for 2019). **In effect GCCF has been required to pay for Monahans mistakes.**

In addition to the price hike the service provided by Monahans is less than satisfactory. There is often a **delay in response time**, and junior staff are on occasions left to deal with queries that they do not have the experience to answer. It took some weeks for the accounts to reach Companies House with no reason given for any delay, despite requests

Albert Goodman has committed to a price that would be half that of Monahans, and is prepared to offer that as fixed for a three year period without tying GCCF to a contract (not possible because of Council's annual confirmation of the accounts' examiner.) Also, they offer a dedicated team of two for GCCF office communication and liaison purposes, and would attend the Electoral Meeting. They are **experienced with not-for-profit companies** and, what was most impressive, checked GCCF as a company before agreeing to quote.

In summary, it would appear that Albert Goodman is interested in having our business and to Monahans our custom is of little value.

Delegates only are eligible to make queries or state an objection. Please send these by Friday, 8th January to the GCCF Chair, Sean Farrell, at Sean Farrell <sean@burmesecat.co.uk>