

## MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 16 June 2009 at 6 pm  
at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury

**Present :** Stefan Barbaruk, David Butcher, Alan Cavill, Judy Clark, Chris Jager, Angela Smith, Lesley Thomas, Michael Thomas and Alan Woodward (Chair)

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mark Jones, Colette Mallon, Jane Nurden.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The Minutes of the committee meeting held on 19 May 2009, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:** There were none.
- 4. NORTHERN WILTS AREA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:** In Colette's absence Alan W. confirmed that the first meeting of the Northern Wilts area will take place on Thursday 18 June, with Mark Jones representing the Chamber. The appointment of a Chairman will be discussed then. Stefan confirmed that others in the Partnership include architects and surveyors so Mark is the right voice for Malmesbury. Mark will report back to our next meeting. There was some discussion on the new political boundaries. Cllr Simon Killane has been recently elected to Wiltshire Council, and would like to come and talk to us.
- 5. OCTOBER BUSINESS SHOW UPDATE:** Chris had met with Cllr Patrick Goldstone and Keith Holdsworth that day. The 'Malmesbury Alive and Kicking' event is scheduled for Saturday 3 October, to run from 10am – 4pm, setting up from 8.30am, and is aimed at publicising the diversity of businesses and leisure activities in Malmesbury. The team will meet again in two weeks time to discuss who to invite. Lesley will send the current Membership Directory to Patrick. The Chamber will need to arrange a banner to go across the High Street and to organise the other publicity. Chris will urgently send Stefan some information to go in the July edition of 'Wessex in Business'. Use of the Town Hall will be free of charge, with all except the gallery downstairs to be available. The café will also be open by then. There will be a nominal charge of £10 per pitch and, although the Show will pay for itself in the end, Stefan suggests finding a sponsor such as a local town retailer or printer, possibly Flying Monk Graphics, to avoid spending Chamber funds.
- 6. LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING:** David has been approached by a different funfair, who will give 15-20% of their takings. He is also looking at the possibility of closing the High Street earlier (from 4pm) with the Market Cross to be closed from 3pm as before. Lesley will arrange the forms for this. The snow machine has been a great success and will be booked again. David will contact John Thomson regarding some funding from the Area Board. Lesley will do a letter for Michael to take round to target the non-member retailers once again for some funding. David highlighted the importance of ensuring that the funfair and the burger seller have public liability insurance in place. The Christmas committee is due to meet in July.
- 7. NEW BUSINESS COMPETITION PRESENTATION EVENING 29 OCTOBER 2009:** The Town Hall Assembly Room would be available at £194, to include hire of tables, crockery, etc. Although we could charge some of those attending, other suggestions were put forward. Alan W. will approach the new managers of the Kings Arms; Judy will approach the Mayfield House Hotel and Whatley Manor, and also enquire as to the availability of Crudwell Village Hall; Michael will find out about St Mary's Hall and Oaksey Village Hall. So far Lesley has given out two forms to new High Street businesses and she will target Sherston as well.
- 8. THREE TOWNS MEETING 21 JULY 2009:** Wootton Bassett is very keen and Cricklade is hopeful about coming along to this. The agenda will be put together in consultation with both their secretaries, and will include a report on how each town is doing, and we will aim to find a speaker. Lesley will approach the CEO at The Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon, failing which David will approach WOMAD.
- 9. FORTHCOMING EVENTS:** Lesley hoped to have something more concrete to put in the July newsletter on a potential talk from Hilditch Auctioneers and a visit to, or talk from, Tracklements. Stefan

### ACTION

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also suggested Swindon Football Club, who had just joined WACC as patrons, who would be prepared to come and speak to us. David would consider doing a 15% evening, possibly next May, at the Garden Centre, for Chamber members and guests, to include a gardening talk, with Michael providing a lamb roast.

ACTION

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:** Chris had emailed details of the next Area Board meeting on Thursday 2 July, taking place in the Town Hall at 6.30pm. He is happy to attend but felt another member may want to go along as well, as we ought to be showing an interest at least from the start to see how things work out, an opinion which Stefan reinforced. As no-one else is available, Chris will attend and report back.

**11. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Alan C. reported balances: Current Account £34.11, Deposit Account £2,062.66, including 37p interest for the quarter. WACC had been paid for Public Liability Insurance and Alan is confident that we can fulfil our commitments to the end of the year, when subscriptions will increase. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday 7 September at Moore Stephens' offices.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- (i) Michael explained the Town Council's suggestion of having no plastic bags in the town. This hasn't really got off the ground and Michael suggests the Chamber takes the lead. Michael has been using a supplier of 100% recyclable bags for about 6 months. However, Angela suggested that a cloth bag would be stronger and suggested marketing this as a town. This could have the Chamber logo and 'Malmesbury' on it. David will approach his supplier for a price, as this could be sold by any retailer in the town, regardless of its business, without each having to purchase too many. Lesley will include this in the newsletter once a price is obtained.
- (ii) Judy confirmed that Hyams had agreed to the suggestion of giving discount to Wiltshire Council for their employees. They do this for Dyson and it proves successful.

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The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

The next meeting will be the Three Towns Meeting on Tuesday 21 July at 6.30pm at the Garden Centre.