

MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 6 pm at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury

Present : Stefan Barbaruk, Julian Butler, David Butcher, Chris Jager, Mark Jones, Lesley Thomas, Michael Thomas and Alan Woodward (Chair)

1. APOLOGIES: Alan Cavill, Judy Clark, Colette Mallon, Angela Smith.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the committee meeting held on 15 September 2009, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING: There was none.

4. OCTOBER BUSINESS SHOW FEEDBACK: Chris confirmed that around 30 local businesses and organisations took out stands, and for the future the suggestion was to have stalls/stands in the bar area. Patrick had confirmed that footfall was around 300 to 400. We had three new members – 1230 the Women’s Co., JHJ Fire Safety and The Rectory Hotel in Crudwell - and Oxford Practice had rejoined, all immediately following the Business Show. The committee thanked Chris and Keith for all their work. It was hoped to repeat the show on an annual basis, possibly as a joint enterprise with the M & V CAP, dependent on space.

5. LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING UPDATE:

- (i) Lesley will accompany David Shelley on the morning as he does the window judging. It was agreed that the competition would be open to all those in the High Street, not just Chamber members, this year.
- (ii) David had informed the fire services of the road closures.
- (iii) Lesley would find a contact for the ambulance service to inform them of the road closures.
- (iv) An email had been received stating that once we had confirmed that there would still be access to Abbey House, permission for the road closures would be granted. Lesley would confirm this.
- (v) Alan C. had written to thank both Ian and Jane Nurden for their donations for the snow machine. The Area Grant application had not been pursued as it did not appear to be applicable to this type of event.
- (vi) The Town Council would be switching on the lights the following week.

6. AGM: This would take place at 6pm on Wednesday 27 January 2010 at the Garden Centre. Alan W. and Alan C. would be standing down as Chairman and Treasurer, along with several members of the committee. Lesley would give notice of this in the forthcoming newsletter. There would also be the proposal, put forward at the AGM, that clause 3. Membership (b) of the Constitution, has the following addition: “Application for membership of the Chamber shall be made with the appropriate payment, for approval by the committee and its officers at their next meeting.” If approved the application form would also need to be changed. It was agreed that Lesley will approach Eddy Shah to speak at the AGM.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Email from M & V CAP to be circulated to members, inviting them to their Open Event on 15 December at Malmesbury Town Hall, when the Community Plan will be launched.
- Email from Peter Murton at Hullavington Barracks, looking to establish links within the town and hopefully from that deriving mutual benefit. He is keen on involvement in the forthcoming Elmer celebrations. Lesley will point him towards Cllr Patrick Goldstone for the latter and suggest he meets with the new Chamber committee next year.

8. TREASURER’S REPORT: Alan C. reported that 73 notices for subscription renewal notices had been sent out, with 29 now paid in full, 12 partly paid, and 32 yet to respond. Balances: current account £2,672.08 and deposit account £1,270.09. Lesley’s outstanding expenses were £60.82.

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9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (i) There was discussion on the TV Licence reminders being received with regard to licences being required for monitors that could receive TV and for public broadcasting on business premises.
- (ii) Stefan thanked Lesley, Alan W and Alan C for their support of the New Business Competition. The competition had attracted around 80 entries, and 110 new companies had been approached although not all had entered the competition.
- (iii) Stefan had been looking at Added Value for Chamber members where credit card transactions are concerned. He had been offered 1.7% which David felt was good as it was not through a trade association, and confirmed that 11p is the rate offered by his trade association for debit cards.
- (iv) Stefan has been working with schools on the new diplomas, and had recently visited Bristol Airport with a view to them becoming champions for the Travel and Tourism Diplomas. He was interested to learn that their custom comes mainly from businesses, from the North Wiltshire, North Somerset and West Wiltshire areas. Stefan also suggested that they would be an interesting guest speaker. They had proposed a £170m development for the airport but Bath and Bristol Councils were very opposed to the plans.
- (v) David warned against scams involving the police and drugs awareness campaigns. He would provide a web link to email to members on this.
- (vi) Chris and Alan W would attend the Conservation display being held between 1 and 7pm on 18 November.
- (vii) Chris had attended the recent Area Board meetings representing the Chamber. There had been some liaison with Cllr Doody on High Street regeneration, and on this point David felt that the High Street shops need to be owned by those who are themselves retailers, to make them viable and to keep the repair costs down, rather than expecting the tenant to pay for this as extra to their rent.

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The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19 January at 6pm at the Garden Centre.