

## MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 18 August 2009 at 6 pm  
at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury

**Present :** Stefan Barbaruk, David Butcher, Julian Butler, Judy Clark, Chris Jager, Mark Jones, Angela Smith, Lesley Thomas, Alan Woodward (Chair) and Cllr Simon Killane

1. **APOLOGIES:** Colette Mallon.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The Minutes of the committee meeting held on 16 June 2009, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman, following amendment to Item 5. October Business Show Update – should read ‘Malmesbury Alive and Kicking’.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

- Item 10. Forthcoming Events: David clarified the idea of a 15% off evening for members, probably in spring 2010.
- Item 13. Any Other Business: (i): Angela and David will follow up the idea of cloth bags. Cllr Killane informed us of a scheme being run by the school, where they will have £5k to spend to exchange disposable bags for reusable ones. They may set this up as a pilot scheme in conjunction with the Chamber. Cllr Killane will forward the details to avoid duplication.

4. **SIMON KILLANE, WILTSHIRE UNITARY COUNCILLOR FOR MALMESBURY:** Simon explained that he still remains a Town Councillor, which he feels is important as he needs to engage with as many groups as possible in the town. He is also on the Malmesbury Area Board, and on the Northern Area Planning committee as a substitute. Simon explained how the system works, emphasising that he has to remain neutral, being there to represent the interests of those who elected him. He is also on various other Wiltshire Council committees.

The main points of information Simon raised:

- Malmesbury Area Conservation Management - Judy Enticknap, Wiltshire Councillor Conservation Officer, will be attending the Town Council Planning and Environment meeting on Tuesday 25 August, to discuss Conservation issues relating to Malmesbury. The plan will be referred for consultation at the next Area Board meeting, on 16 September, at Malmesbury School. The plan will be formally adopted soon after successful consultation. If this is adopted there will be less power and funding kept in the town on conservation issues.
- The ‘Chippenham Vision’ group, very recently set up, may be a good model for Malmesbury, to keep the town’s interests going. Malmesbury needs to be supportive of conservation and ask questions of Wiltshire Council, and it was also stressed by the committee that there needs to be a balance and that Wiltshire must not become a retirement county.
- Station Yard car park redesign - Simon showed the plan, commissioned by the former NWDC and in which key people such as councillors and the MP had been involved, but the police had not seen it! The redesign had been delayed because of the contaminated land issue and will not go ahead in the current format. Simon is going to track the money and, provided it is still allocated to Malmesbury, will then arrange a proper consultation to improve both parking and security.
- Performance Rewards Grant Scheme - £2.8m will be available to spend throughout the county via the Area Boards, over three years, to help the economy and act as an antidote to the credit crunch. Cllr John Thomson will explain the scheme at the meeting on 16 September and Malmesbury should be able to claim between £10k-£50k of this. Lesley will put on the agenda for us to discuss at the September meeting.
- Malmesbury Area Board Grant Fund - The Malmesbury Area Board has £22,363 available to spend on community projects to the end of this year. Applications for the next round of grants close on 30 September. Simon will also send over the electronic link for this.
- Area Board Issue Sheets - these are to be returned to Miranda Gilmour, with a copy to Simon. They can be submitted from an individual but will have more weight if endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce, councillors, etc. Where possible photos should also be enclosed.
- Wiltshire Business in Crisis helpline - WACC has been promoting this and we had featured the information in our recent newsletter.

ACTION

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- (viii) Highways and traffic management - Sally Barrett from Highways Dept has visited to observe the potholes around the town and the markings in the Cross Hayes car park. Alan asked that traffic management is also raised.
- (ix) Public conveniences – there is some funding available immediately for the toilets and fencing the park area in St Aldhelm’s Mead. There was some lengthy discussion on the lack of good public conveniences in the High Street area, and the Chamber is very keen to support the need for better facilities. Lesley will put this in writing to Simon.

**ACTION**

LT

Alan thanked Simon for all the helpful information. Simon is very keen to have the Chamber’s input. Simon left the meeting at this point (7.20pm)

**5. OCTOBER BUSINESS SHOW UPDATE:** Chris confirmed that invitations had been sent out to some businesses and all the information was in the recent Chamber newsletter and the local newspapers have been informed. Keith Holdsworth has found a designer for the leaflets and banners – Flying Monk have agreed to do the banner, and Chris will approach Malmesbury Labels to print the leaflets. Lesley will apply to the Area Board Grant Fund for £1k towards this. The Chamber and Business Link will have a stand and Chris has asked for help setting up on the day. Lesley will put this on the agenda for the September meeting as we need to talk about how the Chamber will be represented.

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**6. MALMESBURY AREA BOARD:** Much had been covered by Simon in 4. above. Chris explained that the last meeting had issues sheets relating to public transport, transport and speeding, bus service and bus shelters. From this discussion had suggested that Oxford Street should become a single lane with widened pavements. The minutes showed “the creation of a more attractive pedestrian shopping environment in Malmesbury town centre, as seen in Tetbury” with the decision that “Alistair Cunningham, Service Director for Economy & Enterprise, would be invited to attend Malmesbury Area Board to discuss initiatives to support town centre regeneration.” We are the only group tackling regeneration of the High Street and changes to Oxford Street were vehemently dismissed – any comparison to Tetbury also needed to be mindful of the fact that Tetbury is successful because there is no bypass! Alan suggested that walking around the town as a committee would highlight any problems. Mark reported that there are not as many empty shops as there were earlier in the year and we also need to remember that the economy is in recession, although this has, in fact, led to landlords being prepared to negotiate on rents. Stefan suggested that money from one of the available grant schemes could perhaps be used on a lick of paint where needed in the High Street. At the next meeting on 15 September we will discuss responses for the Area Board meeting on 16 September. Lesley will also email all members to ask for their thoughts on the conservation issue and on how the Performance Rewards Grant Scheme money could be spent.

LT

**7. LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING:**

- (i) David is struggling with the police regarding earlier closure of the High Street. Alan and David will arrange a joint meeting.
- (ii) Lesley has applied to Wiltshire Council for the road closures.
- (iii) Lesley will apply to the Area Board Grant Fund for £2k towards items such as the the hire of the snow machine and new road signs needed to help with traffic direction on the evening.
- (iv) David will call a Christmas meeting in September.
- (v) Judy will speak to the vicar about the lights on the Christmas tree.
- (vi) David will speak to Phil Rice regarding electricity for the burger van as the sockets on the street lights have not materialised.
- (vii) David will order the snow machine.
- (viii) Judy will speak to Stuart Shape at the Wild Food Shop to explain that the music on the evening needs to be co-ordinated into slots.
- (ix) Lesley will put adverts in the Parish magazines once again.
- (x) Lesley will contact Phil Rice to arrange the town crier and check when the lights will be switched on.

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Mark left the meeting at this point (7.50pm)

**8. FORTHCOMING EVENTS:** Neil Saint from Hilditch Auctioneers will be attending the next meeting, which is open to all members. Lesley will shortly send out a flyer on this. As Lesley and Alan cannot make the date of the October meeting it was agreed that there would be no meeting that month.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE:** Nothing other than information already mentioned earlier in the meeting.

**10. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nothing had been received from Alan Cavill. The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday 7 September at Moore Stephens' offices.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- (i) David proposed no committee meeting in December, and he will propose at the AGM that the committee meets bi-monthly as he feels we will be more pro-active. It was agreed that this could be decided now, as a committee. We will meet in November, January and February and thereafter bi-monthly, calling extra meetings if necessary.
- (ii) At Judy's suggestion Lesley will write to the school to compliment them on the flags, suggesting that they could go on to be improved next year.
- (iii) Stefan reminded us of the Presidents' and Treasurers' meeting on 19 September, a site visit to Stourhead on 23 September and to Swindon Football Club on 15 October.
- (iv) Stefan is looking for Added Value for the Chambers and asked for any feedback from FSB members. Alan's opinion is that they sell their insurance and legal advice well. Stefan confirmed that they could be interested in offering something to the Chambers.
- (v) It was agreed that the last meeting with Cricklade and Wootton Bassett had been a success. Alan is keen that we are not insular when it comes to common issues and Stefan uses the three towns as an example to the other Chambers. Stefan reported that Salisbury feels it speaks for all the southern Wiltshire Chambers, being Salisbury & District Chamber. He also confirmed that Salisbury had resigned from WACC.

**ACTION**

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The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The next meeting will be the Open Meeting with Neil Saint of Hilditch Auctioneers on Tuesday 15 September at 6pm at the Garden Centre.