

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 17 November 2009, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

4. LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FEEDBACK: The Chamber had ended up slightly in profit following the event. The Finance Committee had agreed, at their recent meeting, that those booking stalls for the event would need to pay on booking, and this would be non-refundable. David also suggested that there should be a fixed fee for the funfair and the burger seller. The lack of police presence earlier in the evening was commented upon. Julian requested on behalf of E & S Shops that the queue for Santa's grotto goes towards the top of the High Street in the future, to avoid blocking their doorway. It was agreed that the grotto still needs to be in the High Street, rather than in the town hall, to benefit high street traders.

5. AGM – WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2010: Michael would arrange the wine and Alan the glasses for the evening. Lesley will give the final numbers to David the following Monday, for the food catering. Lesley would send an email out to members reminding them of the date and urging them to confirm their attendance. She would also invite Andrew Carnegie to come along as the new business competition winner. Although apologies had been received from the Head of Malmesbury School, Lesley would write to them suggesting that they may want to send another representative, and possibly nominate a committee member, as Stefan indicated that secondary schools across the region are endeavouring to forge stronger links with business. No nominations had come for Chairman or Treasurer, and it was suggested that the chairman is rotated at the bi-monthly meetings for the time being, and that responsibilities are shared amongst the committee.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

- A letter of thanks from Catherine Doody, Mayor of Malmesbury, had been received, thanking the Chamber for the New Business Competition Presentation evening.
- An invitation for Chamber members to attend the mayoral ball at £35 a head had been received.
- A letter from WACC requesting Chamber presence on Wednesday 20 January for the Wiltshire Council Budget Consultation Meeting, County Hall, 6.00 – 7.30pm.
- A letter from WACC requesting Chamber presence on Wednesday 27 January for a meeting with the Wiltshire Police Authority / Constabulary, The Civic Hall in Trowbridge, 6.00 – 7.30pm. Lesley had already reminded Mike Williams that this is the same night as our AGM.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: In Alan C's absence, Lesley reported balances: Current Account £2,492.15; Deposit Account £1,279.24. £309.12 VAT due for December has been paid. There are no other creditors. Reminder letters are due to be sent out to members who have not renewed their subscriptions. Lesley had visited those in the High Street who hadn't renewed so far and had generally met a very negative response. There were also several who had underpaid.

As no-one had come forward as yet for the Treasurer's position, Stefan had suggested to Alan that it would be useful for constancy and stability if he could carry on keeping the books and WACC could take on sending out the subscription reminders. Alan is giving some thought to the suggestion.

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8. FEBRUARY MEETING DATE AND VENUE: As Lesley will be away on holiday in the second week of February the next meeting was agreed for Tuesday 23 February at 6pm at Fielder and Jones offices.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (i) An email from Chris regarding town centre regeneration had been circulated in advance of the meeting. At the first CAP meeting Chris explained that he, Tony Pooley and Catherine Doody had all showed concern at the number of empty shops, but now that there were only two or three Chris did not feel that a new committee was needed for this. He wished to close the matter from the Chamber's point of view, which was agreed.
- (ii) Stefan reported that Wilton and Pewsey Chambers had joined WACC, with the likelihood of Amesbury Chamber (now Stonehenge) coming on board soon.
- (iii) Stefan also reported that Bradford on Avon had been awarded a grant of £10k recently for wooden sheds for their Christmas market. Stefan was unsure of the source of the funding, but this may be interesting for forthcoming Christmas late night shopping events.

The meeting closed at 7pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23 February at 6pm at Fielder and Jones, 10 Oxford Street.