

MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 20 January 2009 at 6 pm
at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury

Present : Stefan Barbaruk, Julian Butler, David Butcher, Alan Cavill, Judy Clark, Chris Jager, Jane Nurden, David Scull, Angela Smith, Lesley Thomas, Michael Thomas and Alan Woodward (Chair)

1. APOLOGIES: Keith Holdsworth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the committee meeting held on 16 December 2008, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING: There were none.

4. CORRESPONDENCE: None, other than that relating to the AGM, which would be covered in item 8.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Alan W thanked the committee for their support over the year. He also thanked Stefan for his support and guidance and attending our meetings.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: The minutes of the recent finance committee meeting had been circulated. Alan C reported that the financial position was much improved, subject to the match funding from NWDC regarding late night Christmas shopping. We are in the process of co-ordinating the claim. This would not be liable to VAT as it would be classed as a donation or a grant. There were 12 outstanding members to chase for their subscriptions, which would probably now be done after the AGM. The bank balances were: current account £64.66 and deposit account £3,131.60. Kennet Band is still to be paid for their appearance at late night shopping. Alan W thanked Alan C and the finance committee for their work. The accounts were prepared ready for distribution at the AGM but there would not be a cashflow forecast.

7. LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FEEDBACK: This had been very successful, especially the tombola, Father Christmas and the snow machine. There had been some difficulties with a clash of music, causing the high street to empty early. This year a letter would be sent to the traders regarding any music or other entertainment they had organised, so that this can be co-ordinated. The police presence had been good. There was some general discussion regarding how the event could be improved for this year and Alan W thanked the Christmas committee for all their work.

8. AGM: Lesley had sent out a reminder email that day. So far 8 businesses, other than those represented by committee members, would be at the AGM. An email had been received from WCCR, asking if promotion of Malmesbury, and influencing the businesses occupying the empty shops, could be placed under AOB on the AGM agenda. David B will speak to Steve and Steph Kenny to explain that we have no influence and to check if this is really an item for the agenda. David B., Chris and Keith need to liaise with Cllr Goldstone to put together a presentation regarding the business event proposed for June.

A nomination for chairman or committee member had been received from David Butcher at Abbey Printing. Apart from the fact that he has not paid his membership in full, there was some discussion about this member and it was generally felt that his contributions at meetings have not been positive in any way. Alan C proposed, seconded by Julian, unanimously carried, that in light of the fact that he is not a fully paid up member (subscriptions being due in November), his nomination to the committee and membership of Abbey Printing to the Chamber would not be accepted, and a refund of his part payment membership monies will be returned. A letter would be written to David to this effect, wishing him well with his future and business ventures. As his nomination had been seconded by Jackie Morris at Switch Training, who had also nominated herself for the committee, a letter would go to her explaining that as she is also not a paid-up member of the Chamber she too is ineligible to stand. Therefore her nomination, and that seconding David Butcher's nomination, are void, but we would be happy to consider a nomination from her next year if she wishes to apply as a fully paid-up member.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (i) Stefan explained that the first of the Credit Crunch clinics had been held that morning in Corsham. He urged people to attend the Malmesbury event on 3 February and also explained that all the training courses arranged are now free.

ACTION

LT

DB
CJ/KH

- (ii) Michael reported that the Kings Arms was looking for a landlord following the sudden death of Hilary Timms. The premises would need around £500k spent on them.
- (iii) Jane was concerned about the number of advertising signs some businesses are displaying on the pavement. She was advised to speak initially to Phil Rice at the Town Council, and if necessary to NWDC, regarding this.

ACTION

The next meeting is on Tuesday 17 February at 6pm at the Garden Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

ACTION