

MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2008 at 6 pm
at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury

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

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Bill Blake, Alan Cavill, Keith Holdsworth, Chris Jager, Mark Jones, Ray Sanderson, David Scull

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the committee meeting held on 15 April 2008, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING: It was noted that the CCTV proposal had gone very quiet. Feedback from the town showed concern that there would be less police presence and as to who would be responsible for the long-term running costs when Ray's fundraising ideas had been exhausted. Michael Thomas confirmed that only six councillors had been present at the meeting and the proposal had been passed 3-2 with one abstention. As a Chamber we had written to Ray to say that in principle we approve the idea of CCTV cameras in Malmesbury but cannot offer any financial support, which was obviously contrary to the newspaper report which had stated a sum of money being put forward by the Chamber. This had never been agreed as we do not have the funds.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Two new members – Elliott Property Lettings and Burton Hill Caravan Park.
- Email from Phil Rice, Deputy Town Clerk, confirming that the market operator had requested that the 2nd market in December be moved forward from Saturday 27 to 20 December. There was some discussion as to the viability of the market, and it was agreed that Lesley would write to Phil suggesting that the market as it is has run its day, explaining that trading is generally not good at weekends. With a larger market, however, well-controlled and advertised, and a park and ride, it was felt that more people would come into the town. Stefan cited Frome as an example, where there is a market twice a week, based in the car park. It has become known as a regular event and is the most vibrant market in Mendip.
- Email and copy letter from Ian Storey, North Wilts Area Director at WACC, regarding car parking initiatives. We have already given our preference regarding the allocation of monies.
- Letter regarding a meeting on Business Waste at County Hall on 3 June at 2pm. Michael Thomas agreed to attend as Malmesbury's representative.
- Letter from Malmesbury School regarding their project with the NCSL on how schools can become more environmentally aware. David Butcher provisionally agreed to attend the meeting on 5 June from 5.30 – 7pm.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: In Alan Cavill's absence Lesley reported balances: Current account £91.28 and Deposit account £1,684.20. There are no outstanding creditors. Alan has submitted the application for VAT registration. Lesley confirmed that the Finance Committee had decided to apply for £1k of NWDC Forum Money towards late night Christmas shopping expenses, even if a lower amount was obtained. Caroline Lightfoot had confirmed that there is currently £996 remaining for Malmesbury of the £1,666 allocation. Lesley would return the application form but needed to confirm that the Town Council is happy with the application as there will be no further funding available after this. Michael Thomas confirmed this on behalf of the Town Council.

6. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: This had been deferred from the February meeting to enable the committee to 'gel'. David Butcher was re-elected as Vice-Chairman, following a proposal from Michael Thomas, seconded by Judy Clark.

7. NEW BUSINESS COMPETITION: Lesley confirmed the forthcoming Breakfast Launch on Thursday 22 May at Castle Combe circuit. We need to have four new businesses for Malmesbury to enter the competition in its own right, and Lesley needs to know of any potential entrants. The final for Wootton Bassett, Malmesbury and Cricklade would be held at Cricklade Country Club on Thursday 30 October, with Malmesbury judging prior to this on Thursday 23 October. Stefan has contacted James Dyson but he cannot attend the regional presentation in November. The date for this is yet to be finalised as Stefan wants

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to base the date and venue around the speaker. It needs to be a successful event once again so that the competition is maintained under the new unitary authority.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (i) A Late Night Christmas Shopping meeting was provisionally arranged for Tuesday 3 June. David to confirm the date. Lesley to arrange the road closures.
- (ii) Stefan handed out a flyer on the Wiltshire £1 million Training Initiative, to work in conjunction with the 'Train to Gain' scheme. Employees will also qualify for funding if they have an 'old' qualification e.g. a degree, HND or BTEC acquired 20 years ago, but they are now in a different discipline. The flyer would go out in the forthcoming WACC mailshot.
- (iii) Lesley confirmed that the newsletter has been printed and would go out, either by hand in the next few days to businesses in the High Street, or in the forthcoming mailshot in the next week.
- (iv) Julian highlighted some points raised in the Finance meeting. He formally proposed the VAT application Alan is registering, which was seconded by Michael Thomas, proposal carried unanimously. Julian asked everyone to try to recruit members from the non-member retailers. The proposed increase of subscriptions, to be put forward at the AGM in January, would be a main item for July's agenda. The committee needs to prove the viability of the Chamber over the forthcoming months to justify the increase in subscriptions.
- (v) It was decided to run a 'Spot the Mistake' competition in August for children. Julian would speak to Malmesbury Labels to see if they will sponsor the printing of the entry forms. Lesley would attach a small flyer to the newsletter. There would be a charge for shopkeepers to enter, rather than for the child entrant. Lesley would inform the press of the event. There would be 3 age groups: under 7 – Jane agreed to sponsor the prize for this age group; 8-11 year olds – Michael agreed to sponsor the prize for this age group; over 12's – David agreed to sponsor the prize for this age group.
- (vi) It was agreed that the Gazette and Herald, and the Wilts and Glos Standard, should be given the essential points from our committee meetings each month.
- (vii) Alan confirmed that the Malmesbury Traders Guide was due to be updated. The cost will be £60-£70 for a business to be included in the brochure and on the board in the Long Stay car park. Cllr Doody is happy to promote this but has asked that the Chamber be responsible for it.

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The next meeting is on Tuesday 24 May at 6 pm at the Garden Centre. This will be an open meeting when Sue Wilkin from Trading Standards would be speaking on frauds and scams. The July meeting was arranged for Tuesday 22 July.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.