

MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 6 pm
at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury

Present : David Butcher, Judy Clark, Keith Holdsworth, Chris Jager, Mark Jones, Jane Nurden, Angela Smith, Lesley Thomas and Alan Woodward (Chair)

1. APOLOGIES: Julian Butler, Alan Cavill, David Scull, Michael Thomas.

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

3. MATTERS ARISING:

4. Correspondence – Lesley had written to Stewart Shape with the information as agreed at the meeting.

8. Spot the Mistake update – the prizegiving at the Tourist Information Centre on 25 September went well. Lesley would put thanks to the sponsors in the forthcoming newsletter.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

· New member – Minton Malmesbury Ltd at Cowbridge, who are in commercial property.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: In Alan C's absence Lesley reported balances: current account £366.63 and deposit account £832.73. The 2007/08 Subscription notices have been sent out and we have received payment of 13 renewals so far. The first VAT return has been completed and will result in a refund of £144. The only outstanding liability will be the secretary's salary cost for October. The next finance committee meeting will be on Monday 10 November at 5.30pm at Michael Thomas's.

6. CAR PARKING – CROSS HAYES: It had been expected that 17 spaces would be lost but it appeared that 23-24 had gone. There had been many complaints and Lesley would write to Danny Everett at Wiltshire County Council, with a copy to Malmesbury Town Council, complaining that:

- (i) There is no signage to indicate that the exit has changed.
- (ii) There still needs to be an exit into St Dennis Road as the exit near the Town Hall is so dangerous.
- (iii) More spaces have disappeared than had been indicated. If anything more, not less, spaces are needed.
- (iv) The missing 20 spaces will definitely be needed nearing Christmas.
- (v) There is a need for a 5pm cut off for car parking charges.
- (vi) Residents have less parking at night. If there is a function at the Town Hall where do the visitors park?
- (vii) The officials seem over-zealous and need to be sympathetic to the needs of Malmesbury people.
- (viii) The machine will not take 20p pieces for 40p car parking charges!

7. LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING UPDATE:

- (i) David Shelley has agreed to do the window judging.
- (ii) Lesley will contact the stallholders from previous years. The charge for a stall will be £20 this year.
- (iii) Lesley will contact the local press regarding the event, and the local hotels re road closures, in November.
- (iv) The road closure application was going through. As we are closing off the upper high street half an hour earlier than usual, there may be a bus to come through.
- (v) David Butcher has confirmed with Malmesbury Labels that the posters would be here within the week.
- (vi) Lesley would contact Phil Rice to confirm exactly when the Christmas lights would be switched on, specifically with a view to having them on from the beginning of December.
- (vii) A Christmas committee meeting was agreed for Tuesday 28 October at 6pm at the Garden Centre.

ACTION

LT

LT

LT

LT

8. NEW BUSINESS COMPETITION: The judging will take place this week, on Thursday 23 October. The committee was invited to attend the local area presentation evening at the Cricklade Hotel and Country Club on Thursday 30 October at 7pm. There will be a buffet and licensed bar. We are joining up with Wootton Bassett and Cricklade on this evening for a combined presentation evening. Lesley, Alan W, David B and Keith would represent the Chamber - their partners would also be welcome.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (i) There was good feedback on the Bank of England meeting. The Bank's presentation had been good and everyone had a chance to give their views. It had been worth attending and having the chance to participate through the WACC invitation.
- (ii) Chris mentioned that the member to member offers part of the WACC website is not working. He has emailed WACC to explain why this is so. Lesley will follow this up.
- (iii) Lesley was compiling a newsletter to be sent out in the WACC mailshot in the coming week.

ACTION

LT

The next meeting is on Tuesday 18 November at 6pm at the Garden Centre.

Meeting closed at 6.35pm, to be followed by the Malmesbury Town Promotion Meeting at 7pm with Peter Martin, Deputy Mayor of Tetbury and Cotswold District Councillor, which was open to all members.