

MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2010 at 6 pm
at Fielder and Jones, 10 Oxford Street, Malmesbury

Present : Stefan Barbaruk, Chris Jager (chair), Mark Jones, Ray Sanderson, Lesley Thomas, and Don Oakley.

1. APOLOGIES: Alan Cavill, Judy Clark, Warren Hateley, Charlotte Martin and Michael Thomas. The Chairman welcomed Don who had come to observe as a new member.

ACTION

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the committee meeting held on 19 January 2010, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

- (i) **4. Late Night Christmas Shopping Feedback:** Lesley would note the need to start discussion at meetings on this year's event from May onwards. LT
- (ii) **5. AGM** – Lesley would check that Andy Nurden had been paid and thanked for use of the Garden Centre. LT
- (iii) **7. Treasurer's Report** – Stefan would discuss the idea already suggested to Alan Cavill, that WACC would send out and follow up the annual subscriptions.
- (iv) **9. Any Other Business (i)** – Although Chris asked to close the matter regarding empty shops, the Town Council Promotions and Tourism Committee wished to keep this on the agenda. Ray confirmed that empty shops may no longer be a problem, but regeneration also includes the issues of poor pavements and parking.
- (v) **9. Any Other Business (ii)** – Stefan could not confirm the source of funding for Bradford-on-Avon's Christmas huts, but Ray suggested that requests for specific items could be made to the Area Board. Stefan reminded the committee of the Presidents and Treasurers' meeting being held on Saturday 13 March, where Best Practice is shared.

4. UPDATE FROM MALMESBURY SCHOOL: This item was postponed until the next meeting as Charlotte Morris had sent apologies due to sickness.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Lesley re-read the email received towards the end of 2009 from Peter Murton at Hullavington Barracks, looking to establish links within the town and hopefully from that deriving mutual benefit. It was decided to invite Peter to the next meeting in April, to discuss a possible presentation in the town by the Ghurkhas, with a view to showing that the local barracks are part of the town. LT

6. FUTURE EVENTS:

- Highgrove had confirmed that we can make a booking this year – Lesley would aim to arrange an exclusive group tour of 25 people at £15 per head, for a weekday afternoon in early May if possible. LT
- Lesley would contact Eddy Shah to re-arrange his talk at a breakfast meeting to be arranged towards the end of June, early July or late September. LT
- Lucy Rees, an employment solicitor at Wansbroughs in Devizes, has offered us a seminar in relation to changes and developments in employment law during 2010. Lesley would contact Andrew Gill at Forester and Forester, the local solicitors in the High Street, in the first instance, to see if he could arrange for someone from their offices to speak at a breakfast meeting later in the year. LT
- We have been approached by Lesley Andrews, one of Community First trustees to come and talk to us regarding Community First's Business Grants and Loan Fund. She has met with Mike Williams and is keen to engage with the individual Chambers. It was decided to put a piece in the forthcoming newsletter on this. LT
- Stefan confirmed two forthcoming site visits: 13 May, Officers' Quarters in Westbury and 20 May, Octavia Wines underground site.

Lesley will speak to the Old Bell, as the most central venue, to see if they will sponsor one of the breakfasts along the lines that we agree to hold our next 3 breakfasts with them. Don volunteered to go and talk to the 3 Bank Managers in Malmesbury regarding sponsorship/donation and/or their involvement. He would also talk to another chamber member to ask for his professional view on Newsletter design and fee.

ACTION

LT
DO

7. MALMESBURY ALIVE AND KICKING 2010: Chris confirmed the date is 2 October, with the Town Hall booked. The committee agreed to assist with this once again. It was felt that it would be a good idea to have the Ghurkhas as part of this. Chris also hopes that Keith Holdsworth will be involved with the organisation once again.

8. SPEED HUMPS: Ray confirmed that the council was seeking the Chamber's support for the removal of the speed humps, to encourage people into the town, rather than into others, with a more user-friendly speed control. Under new legislation the humps are no longer necessary to enforce the 20mph speed limit. The newsletter will suggest that the Chamber's executive committee proposes its support, but if there are any adverse comments these should be put in writing to Cllr Sanderson.

LT

9. TREASURER'S REPORT: In Alan's absence, Lesley reported balances: Current Account £2,638.15; Deposit Account £1,279.24. There are no other creditors apart from secretarial costs for this month. Lesley also confirmed that she had received £78 in underpaid subs which she had given to Alan that day.

10. UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP: It would be helpful to know who has not paid at all, so that they can be deleted from our database and also from WACC. Lesley would put 'approval of new members' as a regular item on the agenda, following the resolution passed at the AGM.

AC/LT

11. FORMATION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chris explained that the committee had come into being for a particular purpose. This was agreed to be no longer necessary, as the executive committee has complete confidence in the Treasurer and the accounts are audited annually. We would support the Treasurer, however, at any time this was considered necessary.

12. NEWSLETTER: Following discussion during the meeting this would include new member profiles, general information from this meeting, speed humps, events, contact details for the new committee, request for more committee members, list of benefits of joining, Community First's Business Grants and Loans Fund and requests for sponsors for business breakfasts.

13. 20TH APRIL CHAIR FOR MEETING: Mark will chair this meeting, and Ray the meeting on 15 June. Stefan suggested the Chamber appoints portfolio holders, dealing with schools, retail, etc., to feed back to the executive meeting. This has worked in other chambers.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- (i) Stefan confirmed that he is reporting local issues to Mike Williams for feedback to Wiltshire Council.
- (ii) Don commented that he found the breakfast meeting at Cumberwell very beneficial. Stefan reported that Brigadier Stephen Hodder, who was the speaker at that meeting, is organising a food fayre with a view to local procurement.
- (iii) Chris or Ray will represent the Chamber at the forthcoming Presidents and Treasurers' meeting on Saturday 13 March.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20 April at 6pm at Fielder and Jones, 10 Oxford Street.