

## MALMESBURY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 24 June 2008 at 6 pm  
at Malmesbury Garden Centre, Crudwell Road, Malmesbury

**Present :** David Butcher, Julian Butler, Judy Clark, Keith Holdsworth, Chris Jager, Mark Jones, David Scull, Angela Smith, Lesley Thomas, Michael Thomas and Alan Woodward (Chair), Franchesca and Jon Caton (Cotswold Stitchcraft), Audrey and Warren Hateley (Burton Hill Caravan Park), Peter Thomas (WACC – Guest), Cllr Andrew Woodcock (Mayor of Malmesbury)

Alan Woodward welcomed everyone to a short meeting, as this was the first of our open meetings, where Sue Wilkin, the Team Leader of Wiltshire County Council Trading Standards Department, would give a talk on how to avoid becoming a victim of various scams.

### ACTION

1. **APOLOGIES:** Stefan Barbaruk, Keith Maslin, Jane Nurden, Alan Cavill.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The Minutes of the committee meeting held on 20 May 2008, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:** There were none.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
  - An email from Ray Sanderson resigning from the committee. As he is now on the executive of NWDC and portfolio holder for community safety and car parking, Ray felt there was a conflict of interest with being on the Chamber committee. Lesley had written to thank him for all his work in the past, especially during his time as Chairman.
  - An email from Cllr Bill Blake indicating that he will be unable to continue to represent the MTC at Chamber meetings as he is now chairman of MTC Planning & Environment Standing Committee.
  - One new member - Brio Technology Services at the Business Park on Tetbury Hill.
  - A notice regarding resurfacing of Cross Hayes car park from 15 September. The closure will be in a southerly direction to its junction with St Dennis Lane for 5 days.
  - Email from Cllr Simon Killane re Malmesbury Fairtrade Day on 12 July – the town has now been officially awarded Fairtrade status. Lesley had emailed the invitation to all members on email.
5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Alan reported on the North Wilts Economic Consultative Group meeting he had attended the previous week. There was still no idea of when the money would come back to the towns regarding car parking. NWDC had suggested using this money for free parking in the days leading up to Christmas. This would not be policed, however, although this had clearly been indicated as the only way this would work. Alan felt that this would be of no benefit to the retail sector.
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** As Alan Cavill was absent there was no report.
7. **LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING UPDATE:** David Butcher confirmed that two more businesses were needed to help sponsor the snow machine, the cost being around £500 in total. Lesley would shortly be writing to the local chain stores and non-member retailers asking for some financial support for the event. Mark confirmed that Mr Hatherall at Lux had confirmed that the road signs would be available to use while he was still there. David Butcher said that the Garden Centre road closure signs would also be available or could be purchased at £20 each.
8. **SPOT THE MISTAKE UPDATE:** The competition is due to run during August, and to date only 12 shops had agreed to take part. Bearing in mind there are 104 businesses in the high street and its surrounding area, of which 41 are Chamber members, Lesley needed to go out and drum up some support for the event.
9. **NEW BUSINESS COMPETITION:** Lesley had received one request for an entry form so far and reminded everyone to let her know of any possible entrants. Alan explained the format of the competition for those who were unaware.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ACTION**

- (i) The next Open Meeting will be 16 September when Steve Kenny from West Country Cash Registers will be the speaker.
- (ii) David Butcher explained that the WOMAD bus would be running but would be charged to passengers this year rather than the shops paying. The route was discussed, to include the caravan site. David would arrange this.
- (iii) The mayor informed the meeting that the fire brigade is desperately seeking to recruit new members as many of them are now aged over 50.
- (iv) David Butcher voiced his concern about the apathy in the Chamber. Alan confirmed, however, that people in business turn to the Chamber if there are problems. There was some general discussion on this, with the feeling that the apathy is not peculiar to Malmesbury and that economically times are not good at present.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 6.40pm, followed by Sue Wilkin's talk.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 22 July at 6 pm at the Garden Centre.