

Wotton Chamber of Trade

Minutes of Committee Meeting 31st March 2010

1. Welcome:
Alex Wilkinson; Claire Wilkinson; June Cordwell; Trevor Mason; Jacqui Moore; Sam McQuigg
2. Apologies: Janet Walshe; Martyn Roberts; Andrew Cope; Jim Cole
3. Matters Arising:

Road closure – Church Street and Long Street 7th-12th March. AW has taken the matter up with Jason Humm of Gloucestershire County Council, Highways Dept. They have apologised for the lack of notice and have offered compensation in the form of road cleaning or additional signs. They cannot offer financial compensation, but can offer support in areas which fall under their remit, as detailed above.

AW has rejected this offer and said he would take it back to the committee to consider whether they wished to take legal advice to see if traders would have any claim against the Highways Dept. The committee unanimously agreed that the Chamber should not take legal advice, but preferred the option of assisting traders by drawing up a form which could be used individually to make a claim. A key issue in deciding this was that a number of traders who were affected are not Chamber members. It would not, therefore, be fair to use Chamber money for their benefit, but they could have access to the claim form via the Chamber's website. It was felt that this was a fair compromise. It was also agreed that the Chamber should send a letter of complaint to GCC Highways.

Action: AW to approach Gareth Kitchen who has already made a claim for compensation to ask for his help in drawing up a suitable template. AW – prepare a letter of complaint.

4. Supper club – 6th April 6pm The Swan Hotel. This is to be a networking event.

Action: TM – send out reminder.

5. Update on membership – two new members; The Royal Oak and Goldfish (Accountants)
6. Forthcoming events –
 - Supper Club 4th May – Chris Pockett of Renishaw's will be the guest speaker
 - Wine tasting evening – The Star – 15th May. Time to be confirmed
 - Breakfast meeting – Wotton Coffee Shop 23rd April
7. Wotton in Bloom – preparations are well advanced. AW will give a further update at the next supper club.
8. Parking proposal at Stokes Bakery – Quatro, Architectural Consultants, have been commissioned to do a feasibility study on behalf of Wotton Town Council. This has not yet been completed. AW, who is also on the Town Council, will report back to the Chamber in due course. Depending on the outcome of the feasibility study, the Chamber is likely to propose to its members that this project receives its support on the basis that it will

provide a valuable solution to both the long-term and short-term parking problems in the town centre.

9. AOB:

- Christmas Under The Edge – the date has been set for 4th December. NJB will organise this event and it has been suggested that she forms a sub-committee to help with this.
- JC reported that ITV are advertising for people to apply for lottery funding for any unusual projects. The website is www.ITV.co.uk/peoplesmillions and the phone number is 0856 101112.
- JC reported that Stroud DC in conjunction with Gloucestershire Highways would be carrying a 'deep clean' of Church St, Long St and High St on 1st April. A number of traders had expressed concerns over the lack of acceptable communication. Although these 'deep cleans' are beneficial to the appearance of the town and do not take long to carry out, it was generally felt that the timing of the communication does not leave traders much opportunity to prepare for any disruption. JC proposed that the Chamber should send a letter to Wotton Town Council and Stroud district Council asking that in future the Chamber should receive reasonable advance notification of any planned disruption so it can inform its members. The proposal was accepted.

Action: AW to send a letter to WTC and SDC on behalf of the Chamber.

10. Date of next committee meeting – 29th April. Venue to be confirmed.