

**Minutes of Meeting of The Wotton-under-Edge Chamber of Trade
Held at The British Legion
on Thursday 17th November 2005**

Attendance: Mandy (Robinson's Florist); Dave Jones; Lin Russell-Jones; Gareth Kitchen; Paul Smith; John Dansie; John Cordwell; Keith & Wendy Bryon; John & Laura Simmons; Brigitte Whelan; Verity Cole; Sarah McCabe; Marge Cole; Peter & Hilary Roberts; James & Karen Pegler; Jacqui Moore; Nicki Train; Nicola Jotcham; Joanne Taylor; Lyndy Bastiani; Gary Keen; Paul Grimes; Alex and Claire Wilkinson

- a) **Welcome** by Alex , President of Chamber of Trade
- b) **Apologies:** Maureen & Kedrick Davis; Chris Golden; Judy Parry; Alwyn Vaughan; Diana Parlowski; Bob Hughes; Pippa & Andy
- c) **Minutes of last meeting** approved by Gary and seconded by Nicki.
- d) **Membership update** – membership stands at 65 with more promised.
- e) **Christmas event update:**
- i) Christmas Committee gave update on progress.
- Traders to be encouraged to wear something appropriate for the modern Christmas theme.
 - 26 stallholders – traders asked to help supply power where required.
- Action - Traders**
- Car parking – Renishaw Old Town; Chipping; Tabernacle Auctioneers; Co-op.
 - Extra security will be in place with special police on duty. Special phone number will be available in case problems arise.
 - Raffle tickets now available for selling.
 - Posters have been distributed and displayed. The design was well received and it was noted that Draw Creative provided these free of charge.
 - Help required on Friday 2nd Dec. with traffic signs distribution –
- Action – Members to volunteer**
- ii) Around 50 Christmas trees & lights have been ordered from Tortworth and due around 1st Dec. and definitely in time for the Christmas event. Brackets due on Friday 25th November. It was requested that help will be needed to collect money for trees, etc. – **Action - Members to volunteer**
- f) **The way forward for 2006** – future meeting content questionnaire was handed out to all members for their comments.

It was noted that there will be no meeting in December.

Future meetings need to attract more members to attend, have a voice and participate:

i) perhaps engage guest speakers from different organisations, i.e. other established Chamber of Trades; Cotswold Way Ramblers Assoc; Trading Standards; Marketing Organisations, etc.

ii) Social events, i.e. Chamber dinner; Cheese & Wine; skittles; cinema meeting, etc.

It was agreed to continue meeting for the time being at The British Legion.

Alex requested more people to join the committee especially to help with e-mailing list.

g) Any Other Business

i) Gareth Kitchen talked about grants from Stroud District Council which could be used for social events to bring more people into the town. This is being brought before the Town Council for approval.

ii) Sunday opening in December – several shops will be opening the three Sundays before Christmas with 3 Town Hall Tea events.
Hours to be 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Leaflets have been distributed and displayed.

iii) Wotton Town Council Regeneration Partnership Meeting will be meeting on 13th January 2006 – Alex will try to attend **Action – Alex**

Many thanks to RELISH for providing the buffet at this meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 19th January 2006, 7.30 p.m. at The British Legion