

Minutes for Wotton Chamber of Trade Meeting 16th June 2005

Present- Jacqui Moore, Michael Pain, Karen & James Pegler, Keith Bryon, Gareth Kitchen, Lin & Phil Russell-Jones, Joanne Taylor, Margaret Mills, Alex Wilkinson, John Cordwell, Alan Cole, Marge Cole, Sarah McCabe, Rachel Whitlock, Julie Fussell, Judy Parry, Diana Pawlowski, Peter Roberts, Hilary Roberts, Pippa Shennan, Andrew Burns, Kate Lock.

Apologises- Janet Walsh, David Ward, Sue McClung.

Matter arising from last meeting- none

Appointment of Officers-

After a discussion on roles the following was agreed-

Alex Wilkinson- President

Jacqui Moore- Joint President for set up period.

Karen Pegler-Vice President.

Hilary Roberts- Secretary.

Gary Keane-Treasurer.

Gareth Kitchen will find the chain of office.

Membership.

Annual membership of £35 per business, to run from set up (June/July). Gareth will set up a data base of addresses for as many businesses he can find, these will be contacted by letter to offer membership. Letter to be produced ASAP. Associate membership will be offered at a reduced rate- to be decided. Phil kindly offered to visit businesses to follow up letter/ collect fees. Gareth to look into data protection issues re a database.

Organisation.

Need to arrange change of signatories for bank account. Action – Jacqui

Contact Gazette re. Encouraging membership. Action- Jacqui

Arrange an informal meeting with Town Council / Regeneration Partnership. Action- Alex to go with Diana and Gareth.

Meeting arranged to sort out letter of membership, data base, signatories and other organizational issues.

Action-7th July 2 Long Street.

Meetings open to all members to be at the Star 3rd Thursday of each month.

Priorities/Ideas.

Source possible funding opportunities , grants etc- Action- Andrew Burns

Goodwill evening, Christmas lights- Discuss in more depth at next meeting. Possibly set up sub committee to arrange this.

Look at idea of running a bigger market, possibly including a street closure.

Vandalism/anti social behavior- contact CP Tracy Wren. Draw up a list of main concerns. Finalise at next meeting,.

Need to consider how to promote benefits of CoT to non retail businesses.

Car parking- to clarify current position with the council and discuss COT view at future meeting.

Town Manager

FSB has suggested the possibility of a shared Town Manager, funding and role uncertain as yet but primarily to promote the town. FSB Meeting of the Stroud branch will be on August 4th at the Star – members and non members welcome

Security

Following a recent distraction burglary all were warned to be on their guard. The thieves worked in pairs.

Police warn not to confront but to take all possible precautions to avoid being targeted. Raised that a Round Robin system was used in the past but was not ideal. Suggested the possibility of a whistle or rape alarm that could be let off if shop staff feel under threat . This would hopefully disturb thieves and summon help. All to gather information prior to next meeting.

Next Meeting- 7th July 7.30pm 2 Long Street (officers)

21st July 7.30pm The Star Meeting Room