

WOTTON UNDER EDGE CHAMBER OF TRADE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE ROYAL OAK

25th JANUARY 2007

1. Welcome

The meeting was chaired by Claire Wilkinson in the absence of the President, Alex Wilkinson.

2. Apologies

Alex Wilkinson, Karen and James Pegler, Nicky Train.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by Jacqui and seconded by Kate.

4. Report on Christmas Under The Edge

The report was given by Jacqui Moore of Mungos who Chaired the Christmas committee. The feedback received from the night was very positive. The weather was good and the event was very well attended, with it being noted that a number of people came from outside Wotton. However, against expectations, the event made a loss of £364. This was disappointing considering the huge amount of effort that went into organising the event and the fact that there was more activity than the previous year. It was decided to donate £500 to local charities , despite making a loss, because supporting local charities had been a main aim of the event. The donations to be made are as follows: £250 to The Heritage; £100 to The Groove Project; £100 to the Over 60's club; and £50 to the Wotton Silver Band. It has been proposed that we should consider employing someone to organise this year's Christmas event due to the huge amount of work involved in putting it together. This needs to be discussed at a future meeting.

Glen took a number of pictures of the evening and this will be distributed at the next meeting.

The question also arose of membership money being outstanding. There were a number of trees supplied to local businesses where it is thought the membership has not been renewed. As members received a concession on trees and lighting, this needs to be addressed.

5. Report on the Christmas party –

The evening was well supported with all tickets being sold. The overall opinion was that this was a very enjoyable evening and the meal was excellent. Issues that were raised concerned the choice of venue; not everybody was happy that The Swan should have been chosen. Although they are members of The Chamber, a proposal was put forward that perhaps we should consider having a future party on ‘neutral’ ground, possibly outside Wotton. The other issue that was raised was a concern that on this occasion, it had been agreed members could buy as many tickets as they wanted to, subject to availability, and use the evening as their staff Christmas party. Although we did not experience any problems with this, it was acknowledged that we could do so in the future if members wanted to go, but were too late to purchase tickets. Jacqui suggested that if we open the evening up to guests of members in the future, we should consider giving members priority, but also giving them a cut-off date to request tickets.

6. Programme of events for 2007 –

It was acknowledged that the Chamber needs more support and we need to encourage more members. A number of ideas have been put forward: Alex to approach Michael Rigby and Assoc., PR Consultants who are members, to see if they can offer any advice; Gareth has offered to speak to Business Link to see if they would be prepared to give a guest speech. Jacqui will contact members of the Nailsworth Chamber to see if they have any ideas on how to encourage new members.

7. Any other Business

The Wotton Under Edge website is out of date. John Cordwell has agreed to approach Glenys to discuss improvements and updating; the question of whether the Chamber should be registered for Data Protection arose – Gareth will look into this and report back to the next meeting; Terry from the Federation of Small Business would like to be present at a future meeting to discuss the ‘Why Waste’ project, which is concerned with recycling; Alex needs to discuss outstanding membership fees with Nicola.

8. Next meeting –

The next Chamber meeting will be held on 27th March at the British Legion, 7.30pm.