

**WOTTON UNDER EDGE CHAMBER OF TRADE**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**29<sup>th</sup> JUNE – BRITISH LEGION CLUB**

1. **Welcome** – Alex Wilkinson, current President, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the chamber's first annual general meeting.
2. **Apologies** – received from Sarah McCabe, Keith and Wendy Bryon, Peter and Hilary Roberts, Michael Pain, John and June Cordwell.
3. **Approval of the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting** – acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Jacqui Moore and accepted by Gary Keene.
4. **Report from the President , Alex Wilkinson,2005/06:-**

‘ In the first year of the reformed Wotton Chamber of Trade, we have managed to achieve a membership of 72, which is very encouraging.

In December, we put on Christmas Under The Edge. This was a great success, drawing hundreds of people into our town. With the help of 50 Christmas trees and lights, the town evoked an old world Christmas atmosphere. From the profits of this event, the Chamber made a number of donations, details of which are enclosed with the Treasurer's report. It is the Chamber's intention to continue to organize a Christmas event.

The first Christmas meal was held in February at McQuigg's. It was an excellent meal and a thoroughly enjoyable evening. We would like to repeat this event and members will be asked to state a preference for a venue and date.

On behalf of the Chamber, I attended a number of Regeneration Committee meetings, during which various local issues were discussed. This led to us supporting the 'Shop Local' campaign. We purchased one thousand canvas bags, sporting an outline drawing of Wotton. These have been distributed to local retailers for them to sell or give away to their clients.

At the request of the majority of our members, I wrote to the Traffic Manager of the Environmental Directorate to object to the proposed changes to the waiting restrictions in Long Street. Our counter proposals have been accepted.

It is hoped that as the Chamber evolves, we will become more involved in other local events and campaigns which will promote our town and its businesses. For example, it is intended to hold a summer event next year on a similar scale to the Christmas one.

The Chamber has worked with the local police to support an initiative for shop security. We also invited the police to give a talk on security at one of our meetings.

Finally, I would like to pass on my thanks to the following people:-  
Karen Pegler – the Vice President; Hilary Roberts – the minutes' secretary; Gary Keene – the Treasurer; Nicola Jotcham – secretary.

My thanks also go to my wife, Claire, for her help and support; Nicki, Jo and the rest of the Christmas committee for a fantastic job; Gareth Kitchen, Glenys Sykes and John and June Cordwell for their continuing encouragement and support.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members for attending these meetings and making the Chamber possible. I would now like to hand over to our Treasurer'.

5. **Report from the Treasurer 2005/06:**

'We have had a very successful year since the Chamber was revived last June. We have received £2400 of membership fees from over 70 local businesses. This has enabled us to fund the Christmas event which was well received by traders and visitors alike.

We donated £450 to local causes, including Blue Coat School, British School, Wotton Sports Foundation, Wotton Silver Band and Dursley Army Cadets.

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have contributed towards the Chamber during 2005/06 and hope you will continue to support us for the foreseeable future.' Gary Keen.

6. **Re-election of Officers –**

- a) President – Alex Wilkinson agreed to re-stand. Proposed by Karen Pegler, seconded by Nicki Train.
  - b) Vice President – Karen Peglar stood down. Jacqui Moore agreed to stand as Vice President. Proposed by Alex Wilkinson; seconded by Nicki Train.
  - c) Secretary – Nicola Jotcham-Brown agreed to re-stand. Proposed by Alex Wilkinson; seconded by Gareth Kitchen.
  - d) Minute secretary – Hilary Roberts stood down. Claire Wilkinson agreed to stand. Proposed by Karen Peglar; seconded by Gary Keen..
  - e) Treasurer – Gary Keen agreed to re-stand. Proposed by Karen Peglar;seconded by Jacqui Moore.
  - f) Social Secretary – Claire Wilkinson stood down. Nicki Train agreed to stand. Proposed by Nicola Jotcham-Brown; seconded by Karen Peglar.
7. **Membership fees 2006/07** - It has been agreed to keep the fees the same as 2005/06 - £35 per annum for businesses; concession of £15 for charities.
8. **Collection of membership fees** – it has been proposed that a letter should be sent out from the President inviting businesses to renew their membership. This letter will also be sent to non-members who may wish to consider joining.
9. **Any other business** – next Christmas committee meeting to be held at 7.30 on 6/9/06 at the British Legion Club.
10. **Date of next meeting** – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006, 7.30 British Legion Club.