



Minutes

Friday, 2 November 2018

wotton-under-edge
chamber of trade
www.wotton.biz

Present: Martin Tucker (Chair), Trevor Mason (Acting Secretary), Mo Morgan, Jon Turner, Jill Tebb, Janet Walshe, Dave Harrison

Also present: Claire Jaggard, Lilly Harrison

Apologies:, Andrew Cope, Claire Wilkinson, Linda Cohen, Jeff Walshe

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2018

This meeting was the AGM at which some actions were raised. The relevant minutes were accepted as a true record of the discussions held.

2. Matters arising

a) Place the new Chamber Constitution on web site (Trevor)

Action completed

b) Modify remuneration policy to separate out the individual items as a stand-alone document for adoption (All Committee)

Trevor undertook to undertake this suggestion from Gareth Kitchen at the AGM as it would vastly simplify the ratification process in the inevitable event of changes.

Action: Trevor

c) Ideas for future events and revitalise the monthly 'Final Friday' event (All Committee for thoughts)

The discussions on future events are reported under Item 7 of the Agenda

d) Edit Martin's Presidential Report for inclusion in the Wotton Directory (Trevor)

Action completed

e) Research Christmas lights (Jeff and Anthony)

This topic was discussed under Item 5 of the Agenda

3. Treasurer's report

The Chamber's accounts comprise the following amounts:

Barclays Bank	-	£1356.41
Lloyds Bank	-	£2410.17
PayPal	-	£712.19

4. Symn Lane Car Park – progress with Trust

The developer, Colburn, has now spoken with Stroud District Council. Another meeting is to be held which will also include representatives from the Wotton Town Council in which discussions will be held on whether the Town Council should take on the management of the

new car park.

Should the Town Council decide against the option then the opportunity will exist for either a Trust to take it on or for Stroud District Council to request tenders from management companies.

5. Christmas lights - laser lights, cost, support for cost, rental etc.

As reported in previous minutes there have been concerns over the economics of the purchase of trees and their eventual disposal. There have also been some Health and Safety issues concerning their putting up and taking down along with having adequate (and prohibitively expensive) insurance to cover the activity. As a result, the decision not to have any Christmas trees this year was made a couple of months ago.

An alternative and more economic suggestion is now being considered – namely coloured festive images being projected from the windows of businesses and on to the walls of buildings across the roads. This concept is very popular in Canada.

Martin set up a demonstration of an LED illuminated unit which gave a good idea of what was possible although it was generally agreed that the images were not bright enough. He undertook to obtain a laser powered device which although around twice the price (~£40) still promises considerable savings for future years. He would then set it up in a prime position in the town by way of a demonstration to those who might be interested in having such a device.

Action: Martin

After discussing how the 40 or so projectors which would be required to give a reasonable coverage in the town would be funded Janet offered to ask the person who researches grants and trusts for the Heritage Centre to see if there were any bodies that might be able to offer some financial help.

Action: Janet

In addition, Martin undertook to approach both the town's Regeneration Committee and Renishaw.

Action: Martin

6. Christmas event - volunteers for running Mulled Wine stand for members

The town's Christmas event is to be held on the evening of Saturday 1st December. It is being organised by Nicky Palmer and a team of volunteers and will run between 5pm and 7pm.

Linda and Claire have already volunteered to set up a repeat of the stall which offers a complimentary glass of mulled wine or beer to any members who visit it and to sell the same to the general public as a fund raiser.

Action: Claire, Linda

Martin has reserved a prime location outside his premises (Tanzee Jewellery)

A meeting is to be held at 7pm on 16th November at Claire's house (9b Long Street) to discuss the arrangements. Anyone wishing to join the meeting would be welcome.

7. Up and coming events

a) Royal British Legion Centenary fundraiser – The event is to be held at Alex and Claire Wilkinson's house on 23rd November at 7:30pm.

Details of the event will be circulated to the membership in the hope that it will be well supported.

Action: Trevor

There was also general discussion about what sort of event might be popular amongst the members.

It was suggested that the concept of the 'Final Friday' social gathering for members in one of the town's bars has been lost over time and that it should be revived. The initial idea had been to give members a regular opportunity to network informally on the last Friday of the month.

It was agreed that members would be contacted about meeting initially on Friday 30th November in the Swan Hotel at any time after 5:30pm with the simple intention of meeting and chatting with other members.

Action: Trevor

Potential members from the new businesses in the town could also be invited.

Action: Martin

b) Christmas event

The annual Chamber Christmas buffet for members will be held after the clean-up from the Christmas event and the Chamber's stall at around 8pm in the Swan.

Trevor to publish details to the members.

Action: Trevor

c) Following the success of the last one, Dave is to organise another Gin tasting evening for some time in February next year.

It was agreed that Trevor should send out a reminder about Dave's Wine and Cheese evening on 8th November

Action: Trevor

Items which have been considered in the past (with no more than four events in any year) include:

- breakfast meetings where a guest speaker is invited
- a group visit to Aerospace Bristol and Concorde at Filton
- curry nights
- visit to Wickwar Brewery
- visit to Newark Park with the addition of a picnic
- supper club format with a guest speaker
- some form of 'Question time' where a panel of guests is asked for its opinions on a specific topic
- a local version of the radio programme 'The Bottom Line' where a journalist interviews a

representative from a local key business about their work (Claire knows of a local financial journalist)

- presentations from, possibly, a representative of the Heritage Centre, on the history of local businesses/organisations
- guided walks of an industrial archaeology, geological, historical or country/environmental nature
- a visit to the new Bath Ales brewery

A new suggestion was made that every other month, ie 6/yr, members should be invited to a Committee meeting which is sandwiched (no pun intended!) between social/drinks/food whereby the members can join in and contribute to the proceedings

On the basis that these events are planned for the members' benefit it was agreed that they should be approached to see what they want. Trevor will circulate the above suggestions and ask for preferences and new ideas.

Action: Trevor

8. Opportunities for publicity, Facebook, etc

Linda will be raising this general topic at a later meeting

Action: Linda

It has been discussed at previous meetings that Members should be reminded that the Chamber would be happy to publicise them and their businesses on its social media pages.

Jill suggested that a series of 'meet the manager' style articles which present a very short profile of businesses and their staff and the business 'USP' might be of interest.

After some discussion Jill agreed to prepare a few entries to see how they work.

Action: Jill

Martin undertook to speak with Linda on this topic.

Action: Martin, Linda

9. Correspondence

No correspondence has been received

10. Any other business

a) Revival of the Member Discount Scheme (from a previous set of minutes)

It was agreed that a note will be sent out in a few weeks' time to redress the situation

Action continuing: Trevor

b) Town clean up

Jonny stated that he and a team of volunteer colleagues from the Co-Op were offering to clean the frontages of other businesses in addition to their own if they would like to contact him.

c) Town leaflet

Janet suggested that a new leaflet advertising Wotton's regular events should be produced. Funding could come from a combination of the Heritage Centre (who are happy to take care

of the delivery) and the Town Council along with the Regeneration Committee.

Dave expressed an interest in sponsoring the leaflet.

The main town leaflet needs updating and was compared with an example from Chipping Camden which includes a very clear and simple map (compiled by Cotswold.com).

Following some discussions of how it could be funded (including the possibility of grants from GLep and tourism organisations) Martin and Janet agreed to submit the ideas to the Regeneration Committee

Action: Martin, Janet

d) Janet extended thanks to the Chamber from the Heritage Centre for its sponsorship of a month in their calendar. She said that sales were going well.

11. Date of next meeting

Friday 18 January 2019 at 7:30pm in the Swan Hotel
(Trevor apologises that he will not be available)