



Minutes of the Chamber Meeting

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – Churchill Bar, Wadebridge 5.45pm

President: Mr D Walford

Chairman: Mrs S Prosser

Vice Chairman: Mr A Jones

Hon. Secretary: Mr D Rowe

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N Brookes

**Present:** Sarah Prosser (Zanzig Marketing & Local Eyes), Adrian Jones (IT Consultant & WREN), Richard Alexander (Alexander & Co), Nicola Brookes (Brookes & Jeal Accountants), Phil Chanter (Wadebridge Policing team), Steve Coom (Razor Solutions), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Anna Davidson (Wadebridge Bookshop), Stephen Frankel (Carhart Mill & WREN), Eric Gill (Wadebridge Town Council), Philip Grant (Allium), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Jason & Randi Henderson (Elixir Health Foods), Chris Hewitt (Picture & Coffee House), Stephen Knightley (Stephen Knightley Associates), Daniel Laughton (Zanzig & Disco Beads), Victoria Perry (Ralph & Co), Tony Rush (Wadebridge Town Council), Nick Shelley (Shelley Electrical), Dominic Walford (Sticky Fingers/NCA), Rupert Wilson (Gonvena Ltd).

Leonie McGregor (minutes).

**Apologies:** Carole Bourne (Indigo), Rob Burton (Wadebridge Bookshop), Fiona Jolley (NCA), Robin Moorcroft (Wadebridge Police), Phillip Mutton (Trebor Estates) Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Planning), Mike ??? (Victoria Antiques).

*Subject to one amendment (donation of £500 not £200 to the Folk Festival) the minutes from February's meeting were proposed as accurate by Dominic Walford and seconded by Stephen Knightley.*

There were no matters arising.

- 1. Love Wadebridge website/Town Team** – £10,000 Portas funding has been awarded from an original bid of £100,000. Part of the fund will be spent on a new Love Wadebridge website. 2 of 3 quotes sought are in; the brief includes on-going management and search engine optimisation. A town team is needed to take the project forward, ideally with representatives from a cross section of Wadebridge – retailers, landlords, groups, members of the public etc. led by the Chamber. The role of the team will be to ensure information is being loaded onto the site by the individual businesses, as well as collecting other information and delivering it to the web developer. How the remainder of the fund (around £6000) is to be spent would also be in the remit of the town team. Ideas include free parking for local residents, Christmas

lights, market stalls. It was agreed that the key to success is for different groups within the town to work together, as well as linking and sharing information with other towns such as Falmouth and Liskeard. Sarah is meeting Guy Thomas (Cornwall Council's Town Centre Manager Specialist) tomorrow to seek advice on how the funds may be used. Following this meeting a description of what input is involved for recruiting on to the town team will be written and sent out to all members who can pass this on to others they know who may be interested. Anna and Chris offered to give 2 hours per week to the project.

2. **Survey** – produced by Adrian and discussed. The purpose is to allow the new committee to focus on issues most important to members, as well as serve as an introduction to potential new members. There will be a drive to deliver the survey to as many businesses as possible. Other ways of increasing participation in the Chamber were brought up – it should be made clear to members that it is acceptable to attend meetings for just those items on the agenda of particular interest to them if time is an issue. It is also possible to send in submissions and vote by email or letter - the meeting agenda should be sent out early to encourage this. The Chamber website is being overhauled and a discussion forum area is planned. It was also suggested that any Chamber paperwork needing to be collected could be available at a central point, possibly the NCA. A question specifically addressed to the out of town businesses should be added to the survey.
3. **River Festival** – List of actions following Sarah, Adrian and Dominic's meeting was considered. There will be a second marquee and food on site this year, as well as 2 raft races. It was agreed that the food should be available all through the evening, and the opportunity could be offered as slots. If no takers from Wadebridge businesses, the Camels or the Chamber could take up the opportunity. Stephen Knightley will deliver invitation letters to listed food establishments. Sub-committee: Dominic, Stephen Frankel, Rupert, Phil and Chris.
4. **Christmas 2013** – sub-committee: Stephen Knightley, Daniel, Mel and Adrian.
5. **Section 106/Sainsbury's** – Adrian's summary extract of the s.106 agreement was discussed. There is wide dismay at the content of the agreement, as it does not reflect what the Chamber had agreed with Cornwall Council (CC), coupled with general mistrust of the motives of CC. In particular it appears that most of the measures are slanted in favour of either Sainsbury's (e.g. 3d the discounted parking scheme requires a ticket from Sainsbury's machine) or CC (e.g. 2c new car parking behind Lidl would provide revenue for CC). A letter was sent on 13<sup>th</sup> March from Chamber to Gavin Smith of CC Planning Strategic Team seeking clarity and justification. Victoria will peruse the agreement and provide a legal opinion on the detail of the wording so that any flexibility within points (such as "up to") can be used to maximise the benefit to the town. It was agreed that the Chamber should make these points known to the current prospective councillors due for election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and possibly also in a letter to the newspaper addressed to the whole population. The Chamber's view will be included in the NCA column for April. The idea of approaching other Chambers in a similar situation, and challenging CC was considered. All these points should be addressed by a scrutiny committee – to be set up at the next meeting.
6. **Police Report** – a group of professional shop lifters who target supermarkets stole £1500 worth of computer games in 3 sessions recently and were traced to Birmingham with the aid of number plate readers and CCTV. There have been 2 assaults in Molesworth Street/The Platt compared with 3 in the same period last year. Diesel and metal thefts are on the increase country wide, with thefts from construction sites of tools, materials and appliances a particular target. Arrests have been made for the recent spate of shed burglaries and defendants due in court soon.
7. **Chamber Constitution** – being rewritten by Adrian. It was agreed to keep the current system of annual subscription renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> January, with a pro rata reduction for those joining part way through the year which Nicola will invoice on an individual basis.

**Other Business:**

**Car Parking Scheme:** some sort of free or subsidised parking is considered to be paramount by many local traders in encouraging people in to the town and needs to be tackled urgently. The current Co-op parking refund scheme was discussed. It would be possible for the refunds to be given by any shop to their customers in exchange for the 2<sup>nd</sup> portion of the parking ticket. It was agreed that a separate meeting should be called involving as many retailers as possible and the Town Council and Co-op should be consulted in the first instance.

**The Arts Council** has approached those towns awarded funds from the Coastal Communities Fund (£100,000 awarded to WREN) to invite them to bid for funding to include a cultural strand within their current plans. A group of people is meeting at Picture House this evening to assess the amount of interest in the idea, all welcome to attend.

**Electric Vehicle Charging points:** on-going competitive process to gain some of these for Wadebridge. WREN needs to know how much interest in E-Car sharing there is from members of the Chamber – an extra question will be added to the survey.

**Tweet Bus:** is running a campaign to encourage people to support their local shops in the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Publicity will be forwarded with these minutes.

**Letter from Mike and Sylvia Daly from Victoria Antiques** was read out regarding parking and obstructions to premises. Members of the Chamber were sympathetic to the problems but it was felt the Chamber has no jurisdiction over these matters and the letter should be directed to CC.

**Ann Jackson** has been presented with a vase and flowers, with a message from the Chamber thanking her for all her hard work as treasurer, and wishing her well for the future.

**Big Lunch:** Harriet Wild has organised this three years running, and is unable to take this on any longer due to overwhelming other commitments. The Chamber would like to thank Harriet for all her hard work building this up to be such a successful event. It was agreed a Wadebridge Big Lunch should continue, possibly on a different weekend this year to the official Big Lunch as this clashes with Royal Cornwall Show. A committee will be sought and Harriet will be invited to pass her knowledge on to them.

**Treasurer's report:** All accounting is up to date. Some membership subs are overdue. The payment to Cornwall Hospice (proceeds from Jolley Ball) is in hand. Bank balance £4,200. It was agreed that the treasurer's report need only state the bank balance, unless there is a particular fund with budgeted spending to report on.

**Thanks:** to Nicola and Adrian for agreeing to take on their roles in absentia.

**If you would like to become a member of the Chamber please contact Sarah. Alternatively you can use the application form. [Download Application Form Here](#)**

**Date of Next Meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> April (then 15<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> December)

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