



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 17th April 2013 – Churchill Bar, Wadebridge

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 (Local Eyes), Adrian Jones (Adrian Jones (IT Consultant & WREN), Nicola Brookes (Brookes & Jeal Accountants), Chris Hewitt (Picture & Coffee House), Nick Shelley (Shelley Electrical), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Carole Bourne (Indigo), Stephen Frankel (Carhart Mill & WREN), Phillip Mutton (Trebor Estates), Richard Alexander (Alexander & Co), Rupert Wilson (Gonvena Hospitality), Jenna Heywood (Ann's Cottage and Minute Taker), Liz & Steve Drakeley (Kernow Chef/Bubbles Splash), Helen Lentern & Phil Chanter (Devon & Cornwall Police) Sarah Hargreaves (Bridge On Wool).

Apologies: Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Planning), Jason & Randi Henderson (Elixir Health Foods), Anna Davidson (Wadebridge Bookshop), Rob Burton (Wadebridge Bookshop), Dominic Walford (Sticky Fingers/NCA), Stephen Knightley (Stephen Knightley Associates), Steve Coom (Razor Solutions). Robin Moorcroft (Devon & Cornwall Police), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Darren Lewarne (NatWest)

Minutes from March's meeting were proposed as accurate by Mel Hardie and seconded by Sarah Prosser.

Matters Arising

Police Report

Quiet in town centre although shop lifting is still rife, two offenders from Bodmin have been arrested. One offender was found walking through Sladesbridge with a Plasma Screen under his arm! Officers policing the town are making a comeback and the inspector is now in place. There has been two break in's up at Dunveth also.

Treasurers Report

The bank mandate is now in place and signatures have been changed, Nicola is also organising online banking. The bank balance stands at £3795. Subscriptions will now be paid on January 1st with a pro rata reduction for those joining mid-year. The breakdown of the Jolley Ball has been done, the chamber is pleased to say that there is £1000 to present to Fiona Jolley to donate to a charity of her choice, which is the Children's Hospice. A large cheque will be organised to present with.

Minute Taker.

Jenna will be moving away, therefore a minute taker is needed for July 17th and onwards. This is a paid position of £35 per meeting. Please contact Sarah if you are interested and ask acquaintances that you think would suit the role.

Portas Pilot Bid/Town Team Update

Adrian & Sarah have been talking to Sarah Sims (Wadebridge and Padstow Community Network Manager, Cornwall Council), to create a light touch business plan of how to use the £10,000 funding from the Portas Pilot Bid. Guy Thomas, the Council's Town Centre Manager Specialist is helping to draw down the funding for two areas; a Love Wadebridge website and market stalls, there will also be a third area to spend the money on which is yet to be decided.

With a lack of a town team and time, Sarah & Adrian have been talking in greater detail about the idea of market stalls and want to keep everybody informed. It is a big decision which is not to be taken lightly. Factors that need to be considered are the size, type of stall, the upkeep, man power and the reactions of the traders of the town. Sarah proposes that the idea of a regular market is postponed and that time is used locking down the summer event programme and publicising well, with the possibility of doing a Harvest Market in the autumn. Steve points out that most Market Traders bring their own stalls, however Sarah would want a uniformed and organised feel with a variety of stalls, supporting locality and local supply chains. The

whole idea of the Portas Pilot Bid is to breath fresh air in the high street so if the market stall idea is going to be done it needs doing well. The consensus is that it should be put on hold.

Mel says that instead of spending the money on digital advertising (website) spend money on a town map leaflet and signage in the town for the cyclists coming from the trail. Adrian says the website will be very beneficial especially for capturing data for email-marketing campaigns to tell people information about the town. (For example Delicia are having a Sushi Making evening on Friday!) Sarah said that there would be money left for a map and signage, it is said that the map would need to be commissioned especially for this use so it is fun and engaging. Mel will look into the cost of the map leaflet.

Phillip says that he tried out a market on the The Piazza with a variety of stalls including toys, cheap bags and clothing which caused friction with the traders who pay rent and rates. He doesn't think it will work for Wadebridge. Phillip is also on the 'Camel Trail Partnership' which is debating on the route for the bikes to take through Wadebridge, the Partnership will not fund a trail through the park so it would be a benefit for the bikes to go take a well signed route through the town rather than down Harbour Road. Adrian says that if safety is increased, with the help of the Sainsbury's/Section 106 money (£55,000), mitigating the danger factor by reducing speed limits, using vision mirrors at HSBC, and tourist signs for local cafes/shops, bike locks etc. then this will be of great benefit to the town making it a real 'cycle friendly town'.

River Festival & Christmas Committee

A big thank you goes to those who responded to the letter regarding catering for the River Festival; Sun Bean, Barnecutts, Sarah Hargreaves and Tim from the Glasshouse – many thanks! Sarah will accommodate anyone who also wants to get involved so please contact Sarah.

The members present set a date for the committee's next meet:

Wednesday 24th at 2pm at Picture & Coffee House - If anyone is interested all are welcome.

Low Carbon Directory

A short questionnaire has recently been emailed around to publicise Wadebridge further as a low carbon town. If you fill in the questionnaire which will take about 5 minutes and meet the low carbon requirements you will then be featured on the WREN and chamber website. As Stephen says the town is attracting a very large amount of national media attention, receiving awards, with the Energy Minister soon to make a visit. There is definitely something big going on and if you do any of the following, then exploit it as best you can and show it off! Low carbon features include: Generating your own electricity, using energy saving light bulbs, low carbon bags, encouraging car sharing, using local supply chains, recycling waste, monitoring energy use, using email/web to reduce paper use.

Your company could be on both WREN & the chambers website, with direct links back to your own websites so make the most of this free publicity and get in touch!

This ethos works in really well with the idea of a low carbon cycle friendly community; it will show off Wadebridge as a cool place to go somewhere different with a great vibe.

Superfast Broadband

Superfast alongside the Smart Grid could highlight Wadebridge as the most connected town in Europe! Superfast was meant to happen in May but it has been delayed till June. This will draw media attention and will be a direct benefit to many businesses; businesses will need to put themselves forward to collaborate to get the full benefit. For more information on this contact Stephen at WREN.

Any other Business

Guardian & Padstow TIC

If you saw the Cornish Guardian recently you will have noticed the front page news; 'Padstow's Tourist Information Centre could face closure if tough funding cuts go ahead'. ([Read story here](#))

The TIC only makes £2,000 profit and costs £15,000 to run so it is in a dangerous place as the Council proposes to withdraw its £10k a year funding to pay Visit Cornwall's 'top wages' and market digitally on the website. As Padstow are great friends to the chamber helping out with events such as the Camel River Festival and the Christmas Weekend Sarah proposes that we show our support and pen a letter to the council. Rupert says to be slightly careful he sits on the Visit Cornwall board and they have had massive budget cuts and company restructures to deal with and that there are many sides to it.

Section 106/Sainsbury's

They have had a response from Gavin Smith as to when Sainsbury's will actually start to be built; Sarah & Adrian will read thoroughly and report back next time.

Hustings Event

Wadebridge's own 'Question Time' with the candidates up for election will take place on **Tuesday 23rd April at 7pm**. 'All the candidates have been invited to take the opportunity of this hustings to present their views to the electorate'. Sarah asks if members could help publicise the event with posters and give to neighbours who aren't present. (Posters available from Sarah on request) They will be taking questions from the floor but to better organise the event if you have a question in mind please email to Dom beforehand as he will be chairing the meeting. dominic.nca@gmail.com

Jason Henderson has emailed a question to Sarah regarding councillor's attendance to meetings for example. Adrian says that there are many legitimate reasons why councillors may not be able to attend all meetings. Mel suggests that just before the event, small cards are passed round so that attendees can write down their questions. These questions can be organised and it will be more controlled. Stephen says that they could get some cards and Sarah says there will be half an hour to wait where these can be handed out. (Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start)

Chamber Survey

With the risk of too many surveys! Adrian has recently sent one in regards to the Chamber itself and getting the most out of the time and resources available. A forum was discussed for the chamber website; Adrian will have this done in the next week or so. It can be used as a discussion group for important topics on the agenda when attending meetings is not possible.

CCTV

Mel asks about CCTV, as currently she has paid but has not received. Sarah will chase this with Dom as he should have paperwork.

New Members

Sarah welcomes new member Nick Shelley, an electrician who says he will do anything to help. He will be a great addition to the help with the River Festival and Christmas lights! Liz and Steve are also welcomed back they have two businesses one being Kernow Chef who trade up near Dunveth and the other being Bubbles and Splash which specialises in inflatables for events and parties. <http://www.bubblesandsplash.co.uk/> (the contact details on website do take you to a Dean Prior but he will put you in touch with Liz & Steve).

Big Lunch – June 2nd

Harriet is unable to organise the Big Lunch this year due to other commitments therefore it is discussed whether to go ahead with the event this year. Even in the rain last year was a success, which Chris from Picture & Coffee House agrees too (he did a BBQ for the day) and it would be a shame to lose it now as it has gained momentum. Sarah from Bridge On says that even though she doesn't benefit directly, which Mel concurs too they both agree that is a good event for the town as a whole. Mel wonders who will have to organise the event. Stephen says actually it might not be too time consuming these are the things that need to be sorted; publicity, décor, chairs and tables and road closure. Sarah says that Robin Moorcroft will sort road closure, Stephen with the help of Nick/Steve could sort chairs and Steve could provide bouncy castle again. Sarah needs to catch Harriet for her to pass on her knowledge and then volunteers will be needed. Please contact Sarah or Adrian if you are interested in helping.

Entertainment on Piazza

Phillip has said that Alan Jenkins who runs the circus bungee and the teacups has expressed a wish to come back in the summer months one day a week. The traders have said they are happy with that and he also invites Steve to come along. He wanted to check that the chamber would agree and Sarah does saying it will be great incentive to get families in.

London Marathon

Richard from Alexander & Co is running the London Marathon on Sunday for Shelter Box. If anyone would like to sponsor him then please visit his just giving page www.justgiving.com/RichardsLM2013

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: 15th May, (then 19th June, 17th July, 21st August, 18th September, 16th October, 20th November, 18th December)

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