



Minutes of the Chamber Meeting

Wednesday 15th January 2014 – Churchill Bar, Wadebridge

President: Mr D Walford
Chair: Mr A Jones
Vice Chair: [Position Vacant]
Hon. Secretary: Mr D Rowe
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N Brookes

Present: Adrian Jones (Chamber Chair), Nicki Kimberley (HSBC), Rupert Wilson (Ship Inn/Little Plates), Tony Rush (Wadebridge Town Council & Mayor), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Stephen Frankel (WREN & Carhart Mill), Lucy Green & Kay Barkham (Anns Cottage), Stephen Knightley (Cornwall Councillor Wadebridge East), Nick Shelley (Nick Shelley Electrical), Philip Mutton (Trebar Estates), Linda Dutton (Padstow Tourist Information Centre), Richard Alexander (Alexander & co.), Dominic Walford (NCA & Sticky Fingers, & Chamber President).

Apologies: Steve Coombe, Pete Soby, Claire O'Connor, Scott Mann, Nicola Brookes

Minutes: Laura Knightley

Police Report

Crimes: In the past month there have been 30 crimes recorded. A busy month, but take into consideration that the figures are affected by the festive season when there is a huge increase in reports of alcohol-related crime and domestic incidents.

Stopwatch Radios: PCSO Pete Soby and Sgt Robin Moorcroft are currently setting up a stopwatch radio system. The scheme will initially have 10 retail premises and this will expand as time goes on. Due to a grant from the Proceeds of Crime Act, a large portion of the costs have been covered and this means that the cost to the shop members will be minimal at £2.40 per week. This will cover the cost of the OFCOM licence and maintenance of the radio system. Police will have two radios and PCSO Soby will be carrying one whenever on duty. If anyone wishes to join please speak to Pete Soby.

Treasurers Report

Current balance stands at £8,700.

Main outgoings include: £3,000 for the website, £4,800 donations for lights leaving a balance carried forward to 2014 of £2,300.

We are also expecting to receive £2,000 in subs which are to be paid in January.

We have ongoing website maintenance which Steve Coombe has kindly been doing for free. However, we hope to pay him a fee in the future.

We have never previously put aside costs for stationary but going forward we will put aside £200 per annum.

We have £7,000 of the Portis fund to invest, and the amount is time-limited. Stephen Knightley said that the council's network area manager David Chadwick wants to meet the local Cornwall councillors and the chamber to discuss ways to use this to help support town business.

Supporting Carnival 2014

Adrian Jones is looking to extend the insurance we pay for to cover a broad range of events. Risk assessments and road closures take a great deal of time. Could we aim to produce a generic risk assessment? We could liaise with Cornwall Council with this. To organise a road closure you need to complete training at the cost of £42 per person. Adrian will be trained along with three other town councillors, and the chamber will pay for one other person to attend a session on Monday 24th February.

We need more volunteers to help with the carnival as the Lions can no longer commit to coordinate it. The carnival group will meet again in a fortnight to discuss taking it forward.

Events

The Chamber are looking to collaborate with other groups in Wadebridge to coordinate events such as the Big Lunch.

The Chamber agreed that we need to be better organised and create files for all events to save retreading the same ground each year. This would help to create specific roles and tasks that could be delegated. This would help share the work load.

We discussed the possibility of the events committee being made up of people from different groups including WREN, Town Council, WOW, Chamber of Commerce – the groups would be able to pull together resources and ideas. The events help make Wadebridge a vibrant town but the Chamber needs to be more than an events group.

Linda discussed PATA which is a group in Padstow that coordinates with all the groups/forums. All town events go through PATA – all parties involved know what they have to do individually to make events a success.

The Tourist Information Centre is a good base that Wadebridge has missed over the last few years. It is used efficiently in Padstow and uses its website to promote events. We discussed using the Museum as a point for a TIC. Museums currently have lots of funding that they can tap in to.

Wadebridge still has monies from the Sainsbury's Section 106 fund. The money is set aside to improve the town centre. The money does have an expiry date and then it will be absorbed into other budgets. We need to discuss ways of investing this money.

River Festival – when organising the river festival it was put to the town to help. However nobody got involved. Rupert, Dominic and Sarah took on a vast amount of work. They agreed that they would be happy to organise this again as they don't want to lose the event. Although help from local businesses would be a great help.

Big Lunch: This is another event that has a potential for commercial development and needs to be

organised in good time for this year.

lovewadebridge.co.uk – The site needs material and feedback. It will also need funds for it to continue running. The layout is good.

Where is the Chamber going?

All agreed we do not want to be just events-based. We should strive to make businesses more efficient. We will soon see another supermarket in Wadebridge which will have an effect on the shops in town. We need to look at Wadebridge's strengths and use it as branding. Wadebridge is a friendly and informative place to shop and have fun. We are also dementia friendly, cycling friendly, tourist friendly and carbon friendly town and we need to promote that. Advertising our strengths and utilising the town's strengths will help to tell people what we are doing will help to bring more people in to our shops. The Chamber feels that we are lucky to have the town's Mayor and County Councillors at our meetings and supporting our town.

AOB

We have an open invite to visit the Innovation Centre at Falmouth.

We have an open invite to see a trail of 'wind fences' at Lanhydrock.

The Chamber regretfully declined an offer to donate towards the Folk Festival as unfortunately we are not in the position to do so.

And finally thank you to all that helped put and take down the town's Christmas lights and again to the Davey Brothers.

Date of next meeting February 19th (then March 19th, April 16th, May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 20th, September 17th, October 19th, December 17th)