



Wadebridge and District chamber of Commerce

President: Mr G Stanbury

Chairman: Mr D Rowe Vice Chairman: Mr D Walford
Hon. Secretary: Mr A M Gregan Hon. Treasurer: Mrs A Jackson

Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of the Wadebridge and District Chamber of Commerce which took place on Wednesday 16th February at The Churchill Bar, Wadebridge

Present: Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Planning), Harriet Wild (Elixir), Sarah Hargreaves (The Bridge On Wool), Grenville Stanbury (Kittows), Steve Knightley (Mayor), Ann Jackson (Treasurer), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Fiona Jolley (NCA), Philip Mutton (Trebur Estates), Randi Henderson (Elixir), Stephen Frankel (Carhart Mill), Lisa Acari (My Place in Cornwall), Yvonne Robinson (The Heat Store)

Apologies: Dominic Walford (Riverside Financial Planning), Jason Henderson (Elixir), Susan Stanbury (Kittows), Robin Moorcroft, Phil Chanter and Helen Lentern (D & C Police), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts)

At the last AGM, David Wallis proposed and Mel Hardie seconded that the membership fees should be £50 a year from the 1st April 2011. This would subsidise the Chamber as there aren't as many grants coming in compared with before. A vote was taken and carried this year that they should be raised.

Treasurers Report

Subs are slightly up by £120 this year on last. The Christmas donations were down, but this could be due to the lack of Town Council grant. We're just about still solvent.

Darren thanked Grenville for his help as president especially through such a busy year - he was a very useful walking handbook! He also talked highly of Dominic's work as Vice President, and praised Ann as treasurer – a position she's held for at least 16 years!

There has been fantastic support throughout the year from the Town Council representatives – Steve Knightley and Grenville, and support from Stephen Frankel. He believes that 2011 will be a good year for the Chamber, with lots of positive projects to undergo.

Date of next AGM = 15th Feb 2012.

Matters Arising:

WREN: Stephen Frankel said there was a fantastic response from the WREN launch. There were at least 600 people through the doors, all seeking more information and giving feedback. The launch generated over 130 paid up members. There have been requests from people that couldn't make it that this event should happen again. WREN advises anyone who wants more information to get in touch via the website. There is a steering group at the Higher Tenant Committee Meeting at 1pm Wednesday 23rd Feb for all members (who have paid their pound subscription) to organise the next step including the inaugural general meeting. Stephen particularly highlighted the importance for industrial businesses to get involved with WREN as their large roofs would be especially rewarding.

Matters Arising

Darren was pleased that mentioning the need for businesses to join the Chamber generated 13 e-mails of interest! He said this will not only benefit those businesses, but also stimulate new ideas and get some more money in the kitty. Darren was also pleased that throughout the year the Chamber retained all its existing members.

The Chamber of Commerce website (www.wadebridge-chamber.co.uk) has been rating at the top of search engines, and generates over 800 hits a month. This not only promotes and gives us control over Wadebridge content, but also creates awareness for business listed in the members directory. If you are a member, make sure to e-mail the Chamber of Commerce website to get yourself listed. There will soon be a separate WREN page and a link to the Wadebridge People website. (www.wadebridge-people.co.uk)

Darren explained that 2011 will be a financially close year for the Chamber, so fundraising will be important to ensure we keep up our good standards. He persuaded Sarah Hargreaves and Sarah Prosser to join as a fundraising committee and organise events that could bring money in, such as a community bingo.

For members who want to pay less for a stand at the **Royal Cornwall Show** – there is one stand available. There are huge savings for being part of this scheme so get in touch if you're interested. Flowers are available to be hired to brighten up stands.

Any Other Business

Darren and Dominic have been keeping busy with after dinner talks and presentations. They have recently spoken at the 41 Club and presented to the ladies of the 'Inner Wheel'. *Donations have come in due to these talks!* There are two more coming up, which is a great way of promoting the Chamber.

Philip Mutton announced that there is a **Friends of the Camel Trail meeting on Friday 4th March** in Town Hall at 6.30. BBC Radio Cornwall's James Churchfield will host the evening, where you can have a nice cup of tea, find out more information and possibly get involved. This event is unfortunately very necessary due to the cuts that will have an impact on the Trail. He emphasised the importance of the Camel Trail for year round tourism and raising the profile of the town. It's a major source of revenue for Wadebridge and sets us aside from other towns. Darren agreed and said he will certainly become a friend. He said that without the trail Wadebridge would be a very different town. Grenville said there are few places where a cycle track goes through the town like it does in Wadebridge and this really does boost trade for us.

Darren announced the '**Save our Sergeant**' campaign'. Sergeant Robin Moorcroft was due to be relocated from Wadebridge and replaced with a part-time sergeant who would split his time in St Columb and Wadebridge. Sarah Hargreaves added that this Sergeant is already part-time in St Columb so we would only have a fraction of that time. Darren explained that we would not only lose a good chap, but we'll also lose the excellent policing he provided. When Dominic put out the news that we could lose our sergeant, there were over 100 responses in only one day! Darren was therefore very pleased to announce that after Robin has a short spell in Bodmin until the 20th May, he'll be back in Wadebridge again!

Philip Mutton felt it important to note that a **valid point was missing from the January minutes**. Grenville had pointed out that despite not knowing the decision made about which supermarket we were going to have, if any, it might not all be doom and gloom. He said that when Somerfield's applied for planning permission (present Tesco site), the Chamber spent a lot of time and money in protesting this application. And despite the supermarket gaining permission, it turned out to have a positive effect on the town. He hoped that any new developments for Wadebridge albeit controversial, might have a similarly positive effect.

When discussing the current **Supermarket planning decision**, Grenville pointed out that Sainsburys are legally obligated to appeal to the Council, even though it's the Council that refused them in the first place. He speculated that Morrisons are likely to be in the same situation with the Football club. Grenville and

Darren were unsure whether the supermarkets have to offer a 106 agreement if they win by appeal. Grenville said they may offer a goodwill 106 agreement using their discretionary fund. Rachel was disappointed that Tesco sneaked in through the back door and wanted to know how they were approved.

Stephen Frankel explained that the planning guidelines 'PPS4' explain what impact is acceptable and not acceptable. The Tesco's application was not planned to have a considerable impact on the town and was therefore not such as a threat as the others. He believed that the committee were also exhausted after the extremely forceful recommendations. The committee made it clear that they were unhappy with their decision, but had no other option but to approve.

The committee were very unhappy with the outcome as they were told against their wishes that they had to approve the Tesco application and had no grounds to refuse it. It was unanimous at the Chamber meeting that Tesco are the worst supermarket for bullying tactics and lacking a sense of community. Stephen explained that this decision was still not finite and could be called in. Grenville felt that the Tesco application affects more local businesses than any of the new supermarkets would, as their expansion would mostly be white goods. Grenville felt that as Wadebridge is a growing town, another supermarket is inevitable at some point - he feels that it is just a matter of time.

Steve Knightley explained that the Town Council has just set up an *umbrella group* committee to absorb the role of Town Centre Manager of the town. This would be a sort of 'community committee' with details to be finalised. Darren and Harriet volunteered to represent the Chamber.

Harriet updated everyone about the Wadebridge *Big Lunch Street Party*. The chosen date is Sunday 5th June on Molesworth Street at 1pm. So far the entertainment is almost all organised. Letters are in the process of being distributed to local businesses when time allows, and this explains what's going on / when / how / where etc. If anyone does have any time on their hands, a desire to make bunting, a great idea about how to get everyone together or access to lots of tables and chairs please get in touch with Harry in Elixir Health Foods or harry_wild@hotmail.co.uk.

The Chamber of Commerce representative at the **Town Forum** meetings was due to be voted in again. Grenville said that he was happy to continue this position. This was proposed by Darren and seconded by Harriet. Grenville said that the town plan that is in the process of being re-written is currently on hold until there's more stability with supermarkets etc.

Sarah Prosser wondered what was happening on the **local's loyalty card front**. She felt that it was definitely worth getting involved with, not only for the locals but also to give regular holiday makers a sense of belonging. It was agreed that this was a job for the new Town Council / chamber umbrella group. Stephen Frankel offered to retrieve the information he dug out on that project.

Next Meeting: 16th March at The Churchill Bars (upstairs) 5:45