



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 20th June 2012 – Churchill Bar, Wadebridge

President: Mr D Rowe

Chairman: Mr D Walford

Vice Chairman: Mrs S Prosser

Hon. Secretary: Mr A M Gregan

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs A Jackson

Present: Dominic Walford (NCA & Sticky Fingers Nursery), Sarah Prosser (Local Eyes), Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Planning), Ann Jackson (Treasurer), Rupert Wilson (Seafood Restaurant & PATBF), Anna Davidson (Wadebridge Bookshop), Rob Burton (Wadebridge Bookshop), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Nicola Brooks (Brooks & Jeal Accountants), Chris Hewitt (The Picture & Coffee House), Robin Moorcroft (Devon & Cornwall Police), Tony Rush (Mayor/Town Council), Sam Cathew (Riverside Financial), Phillip Mutton (Trebur Estates), Mike Walford (Cornwall Folk Festival), Richard Alexander (Alexander & Co), Stephen Frankel (Carhart Mill & WREN), Paula Martin (Cornwall Air Ambulance), John Battersby

Apologies: Jenna Heywood (Ann's Cottage and Minute Taker), Darren Lewarne (Natwest Bank), Grenville & Susan Stanbury (Kittows), Sarah Simms (Cornwall Council)

Minutes from May's meeting were proposed as accurate by Sarah Prosser and seconded by Rupert Wilson.

Crime Prevention Report – From Robin Moorcroft

Last month there were 7 crimes in Molesworth Street, mainly burglary. 3 were in the Conservative Club on the Saturday night prior to the Royal Cornwall Show where they sadly lost 1 week's takings. The offenders were located and dealt with and there was also an assault on the new landlady in the Molesworth Arms. This time last year there were 3 crimes in this area.

There was one crime on The Platt at the Spar compared to none last year and also a burglary in Eddystone Road and Polmorla against 3 last year. Unfortunately we also had 2 serious burglaries at Wadebridge School where thieves took £16K worth of computer equipment.

The Police Cadets have been active at events this last month including the Jubilee day and Port Issac Carnival.

On a good note, Helen Lentern has had a little boy weighing 6lb 11oz and mum and baby are both doing well. Dom asked Robin to pass on best wishes on behalf of the chamber.

Robin said that he would be 2 staff members down until September as Clare Drennan would also be absent for a while. Dom said that a meeting was called but had not yet taken place between Wadebridge Chamber and PATA to discuss the local rising crime situation and the link between that the reduction of staffing. Robin said that he has lost 10 staff to Bodmin overall and this has had a direct impact on the speed of response recently. Even when cover arrived from outside of the area, very often because they don't know the local area this has caused a slow reaction and response to crimes and there is a lack of patrolling happening.

Dom said that he was concerned about the levels of policing in Wadebridge and that we all pay our taxes, the same as residents in Bodmin and therefore we should be receiving the same level of cover as Bodmin. It was proposed that Dom write

to the Chief of Police to express our concerns and this was agreed. It was also suggested that this be a joint letter from the Chamber and the Town Council and Dom will talk to the Town Clerk about this.

Rupert asked whether we would be losing police staff during the Olympics and Robin confirmed that this was the case. Dom will be writing to the Chief constable to express the concerns of the chamber and it was proposed that this should be a joint letter with the Town Council. Tony will talk to Kate about this.

Mel raised the subject of the lack of CCTV coverage in the town. This was something we used to have but as it was an old system it was costing too much to maintain and was therefore taken down. Plans to replace this have gone by the wayside and it looks as though Phase 2 that was intended never actually happened. Robin said that the installation and ongoing costs for a new system were in the region of £30-40K and the Town Council just do not have the budget for it. There is no grant funding available either. It was agreed that it was a really useful tool to help the Police fight the crime on the high street but only if we had the right equipment. Chris Hewitt said that there were so many new systems now available that utilise Wi-Fi which is far better than the old system we had. Pauline from Cornwall Air Ambulance said that they had CCTV installed in some of their shops in the county and that the police actually approached them in order to look at and help with their investigations. They had installed at the front and back of their shops. Ilfracombe actually have dummy cameras in their town and yet the press put out information which said that it was a new state of the art system and this helped to act as a deterrent. Dom felt that although this was needed in the town it was unlikely to happen any time soon due to lack of funding.

The number of crimes is rising dramatically in Wadebridge according to Robin. Anti-social behaviour is not such a problem but Wadebridge has one of the highest rising crime rates in the county at the moment.

Treasurers Report

Money has still been coming through for the Christmas Weekend and the Jolley Ball. Nothing further to report this month.

Matters Arising

Camel River Festival – 18-19th August, Jubilee Fields, Wadebridge.

We have been approached by Fowey Canoe Club who are holding a national race in Wadebridge on the Saturday of the festival and are going to combine this with our activities. They estimate that they will have over 100 canoeists plus spectators taking part and are running a series of races on the Camel in the town.

We have successfully received some funding from the Co-op towards this event for £2000 and £350 from PATA who have also agreed to put up some publicity on the event on their website - our sincere thanks go out to both of them. We have also now secured the sponsorship deal with Sharps Brewery and will be working on the promotion and further details this month.

The Rugby club will be running the bar at the event and Rupert is going to organise this further. Wadebridge Wines will also have a bar selling wine by the glass and Sarah from the Bridge on Wool has also offered to help where needed. Chris Hewitt will be putting together the music stage as well as taking photographs on the day. Crealy will also be attending as new members of the Chamber and there will be various other family activities. More details to follow as the programme is confirmed.

Sponsors were requested for trophies for the raft and tug of war events and were agreed as follows:

Tug of War Adult – Riverside Financial Services
Tug of War Juniors – Local Eyes Magazine
Raft Race Adult – Trebur Estates LTD
Raft Race Juniors – Wadebridge Bookshop
Best Themed Raft – Matchbox

Our thanks to those companies who have offered their support.

Open Meeting – 19th June

This event took place in the town hall but sadly clashed with the football which may have been why attendance was lower than anticipated. We did have a number of retailers attend together with a good representation from the Town Council. Those that attended found it very informative and Richard Gates, TCM from Falmouth gave an excellent presentation which demonstrated the scope of what he does.

Philip asked how much he was paid and what budget he has to work with and Paula asked whether he had performance related pay. We are unsure of the answers to these but understand that it is a salary of around £30K which for Wadebridge could be pro rata for a 3 day week providing a part time position. Paul said that it was important that the TCM be given a

working capital and clear guidelines as to what is expected of them. They don't have a shop in Falmouth currently, but the town is at the top of our list to acquire a lease on suitable premises, one of the key reasons being the levels of activity in and around the town created by the TCM. They do have shops in Truro and in Camborne (both being BID's) and have good experiences of that. They do have a shop in Helston, where the TCM was partly funded by Sainsburys, but perhaps isn't as effective (in our opinion) as say the TCM in Falmouth (it really is down to the person and their enthusiasm and passion for the job) The Air Ambulance wants a shop located to Falmouth because they have a TCM and Paula said it was music to their ears when they found out that Wadebridge was considering having a TCM as it presented the town with a lot more opportunity.

Chris Hewitt said that he felt there was a clear divide at the meeting between the shop keepers and the town council. Paula said that their reaction was a normal reaction to any strategic change of direction. People spent a lifetime dedicating themselves to the community as many of the councillors have and that it would take a little while to be able to demonstrate the good that change can deliver.

Dom said that the purpose of the meeting was to help people to understand exactly what the role and scope of a TCM was and whether this would be suitable for Wadebridge. The Town Council have looked at this before and talked in detail to the Newquay TCM in the past. However the Town Council felt that it would undermine the volunteers and they would cease to assist with various events. The Chamber feels that it would be the opposite and that with clear leadership and direction, the volunteers would be able to function more easily and the result would be better for everyone concerned.

The Mayor said that to be honest, he was initially unsure about a Wadebridge TCM, but that after having listened to the presentation he felt differently and thought that a small working group should be put together to take this further. Dom agreed with this approach and said that it was great to have a new person in position at the Council who was willing to look into the matter. We will nominate 3 people to sit on this group at the next meeting from the Chamber. Tony did say that the main concern from the council would be the funding of this post. Stephen Frankel said that there had been talk on this for a long time now but those we now have the opportunity of actually making it happen and we should move quite quickly to secure the resources for this. Philip Mutton said he felt we should be looking for a part time position and someone with the underlying skills to could co-ordinate everything. We shouldn't expect to be able to secure another "Richard" as we don't have the funds for such a person. Dom suggested that we may be able to combine the costs and share the post with Padstow. Paula felt that this would divide loyalties. Paula said that the person chosen needed to have personality, passion and enthusiasm and preferably with retail and tourism experience and a knowledge of the grant system. Rupert said that he had approached Visit Cornwall for funding and it was clear that other TCM's had already got in there first – outlining the importance again of why Wadebridge should have a TCM in order to get our fair share of any funding available. Stephen said that other fund pots pop up all of the time and we should be ready to grab them when we can. Dom pointed out that Falmouth applied to host the Olympic torch relay over 2 years ago which shows how much planning is involved but that the event rose over £1m for the local economy.

Moving forward, the TCM role could be funded by the BID process and we needed to get Sarah Simms involved with this to see how we progress this process. Paula said that if the Town Council were nervous about making a commitment to match fund this position then could we look to get someone who would be willing to do it on a temporary basis (secondment possibly from a company where they are being underutilized at present) so that we can see some results. Mel felt that this would cheapen it by only operating 1 or 2 days a week and Paula said that actually they may not have the full commitment if this was the case. Mel said that if Wadebridge wasn't careful we would be bypassed and they we are not a sleepy little town anymore. With so much to offer in Wadebridge we just need someone to promote this and co-ordinate everything properly.

Dom said that he would talk to Jim Mitchell at Barefoot Media PR Company and get a price for a monthly retainer to help promote the town and its events in the regional and national press.

Cornwall Folk Festival – 3-5 August.

Mike Walford presented an update on the folk festival

Tickets and Programmes are now available Online at: www.cornwallfolkfestival.com and also available from Hobgoblin Music Shop and Wadebridge Bookshop. Along with the 5 Concerts in the Town Hall and 5 concerts in the Folk Club at the Molesworth Arms Hotel there are free music sessions in the Bridge On Wool and Molesworth's bars. Street Entertainment is planned with music from bands, buskers and various Morris dancing teams, on the Piazza, Polmorla Walk, Foundry Court, Molesworth Street at 2 points: ie. outside of the Swan Hotel and Molesworth Arms and music is planned outside of the Co – Operative Supermarket and in the Rotunda.

Morning musical workshops are being run in the Town Hall and Wadebridge's very own Canon Bill Stuart - White is conducting a "Folk Mass" at the Languieux Circle (alongside of the Co-Op Car Park) on Sunday 5th August at 10.30am with traditional hymns and Cornish/Celtic songs of praise embracing other denominations accompanied by various musical instrumentation. Everybody is welcome to come and join in and sing and pray in what we hope will be a joyful occasion? Also, children from St. Breock Primary School will be djembe drumming outside the Co-Op on Sunday at 11am and joined

by Amadou Diagne (one of the Festival's Star Acts) who hails from Senegal and he was a percussionist in the Senegal National Orchestra for 8 years before moving to Britain to become a successful singer/songwriter.

This year we welcome a top act duo from Holland – Linde Nijland and Bert Ridderbos, BBC 2012 Folk Award Winners - Tim Edey (Best Musician) and Lucy Ward (Best Newcomer). Supporting all the national and international acts are “top drawer” local acts – Gumbo Flyers, Flats and Sharps, Skeleton Crew, Black Velvet, Corncrow, Dalla and a host of others too numerous to mention! Finally, topping the bill is the great Folk Legend Nic Jones. Nic has come out of retirement to do a few Festival gigs and he has chosen us to be one of them which has caused huge excitement and we can confirm journalists from the National Musical Press are coming down to review our Festival this year!

We are also looking for volunteer stewards to work at the festival and those doing so-get free weekend passes. It is vital the Town continues to support this Festival by coming along to see some of the events laid on by actually purchasing a ticket and a very special programme? It's great to see both local and international acts playing side by side in this very, special year which celebrates being 40 years old and by buying tickets ensures our longevity.

Cornwall Folk Festival is run entirely by volunteers (including myself) for the benefit of the Community and is supported by Hobgoblin Music, the Co-Operative Community Fund, Wadebridge Town Council, North Cornwall Advertiser, St. Austell Ales, Sharps and Skinners Breweries along with the traders in the Town. **Your support is vital.**

If anyone can help in anyway please get in touch with Mike Walford – Festival Organiser (Home Tel : 01637880604).

Stephen Frankel recognised the huge efforts put in by Mike and his team and it was agreed that if the weekend goes well and retailers have a good trading weekend as a result of the folk festival then perhaps next year we could ask for a donation from the traders to help fund the costs of putting on this great event for Wadebridge.

Mike said that this was the best line up they had ever had and there was also plenty of acts and entertainment for the youth of the town as well. Dom said that he hoped it all went well and asked everyone to give Mike as much support as they can even if only to steward for a couple of hours at some point.

Jolley Ball – 8th September - The Pavilion Centre at the Royal Cornwall Showground

Tickets are pretty much sold out now. We are collecting in the ticket money and once we know who has paid and who has dropped out we can release any spare tickets.

Christmas 14th – 16th December

All spaces have now been sold for the Christmas Craft Market.

Any Other Business

Jubilee Event – Darren said that all credit should go to the Town Council for putting on such a great family event. Dom reiterated this.

The Big Lunch – this was well attended even despite of the weather and over a couple of hundred people attended. Credit to Harriet Wild for all her hard work in putting this together.

WREN – Stephen said that in general everything was going really well with WREN and the work they were doing was catching on across the country. There are further meetings planned to develop the Eco Park initiative further as well as looking at ways in which we can capitalise on the model created to create inward investment. Wadebridge is also on the list for an Innovation Centre and as a possible pilot for a smart grid.

Stephen said that Wadebridge was ahead of the country on all of this and it was looking very good. Dom thanked Stephen and Rupert for all their hard work in driving this forward and that this was a long term project which will protect the towns future. Stuart Robertson said that at the open meeting “that we were all custodians of the town and that it was our job to leave a legacy for the future” and there are plenty of people working hard to do just that at the moment in the town.

Bridge on Wool – Dom reported that the Bridge on Wool was on the market and said that the loss of Sarah would be a big one to the town and thanked her for all her support of the Chamber. We wish her well in her new ventures.

Next Meeting: 18th July 2012 at the Churchill Bars (upstairs) 5.45pm – all are welcome.

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Treasurers Report
4. Crime Prevention
5. Matters Arising
6. Nomination of TCM working group
7. Events Committee update
8. Other business

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

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