



## Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 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:** Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Planning), Dominic Walford (Plug into the Sun), Ann Jackson (Treasurer), Stephen Knightley (Mayor - Wadebridge Town Council), Rupert Wilson (Seafood Restaurant & PATBF), Phillip Mutton (Trebor Estates), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Yvonne Robinson (The Heat Store), Stephen Frankel (Carhart Mill), Sarah Prosser (Local Eyes), Nicola Brooks (Brooks & Jeal Accountants), Nicola Ryland (The Tea Shop/Flo's Carnival), Gill Wilson (Celtic Pine & Oak), Darren Lewarne (Natwest Bank), Rob Burton (Wadebridge Bookshop), Anna Davidson (Wadebridge Bookshop), Tony Gregan (North Cornwall Advertiser Ltd), Chris Andrews (The Vine Greengrocers), Jenna Heywood (Ann's Cottage and Minute Taker)

Apologies: Lisa Arcari (My Place in Cornwall), Grenville & Susan Standbury (Kittows) Fiona Jolley (NCA)

### **Treasurers Report**

Ann tells us that Subscriptions are up by £400 on last year, Royal Cornwall show up by £400 and Christmas donations up by £1000 on previous year.

The Christmas weekend 2011 cost £3,500, this goes towards the telehandlers, fireworks, (price has been held now for 4 years and will be held for Christmas 2012) other expenses are chocolate and toys for the Santa's Grotto. These things can not really be cut down as they are essential for creating a successful Christmas weekend, so the Chamber will be looking at similar costs for Christmas 2012.

### **No Crime Report this month**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Town Council Meeting**

Dominic, Rupert, Stephen Knightley and Stephen Frankel had a meeting with the County Council recently to discuss ideas for attracting more businesses into the Industrial Estates and assist businesses in the area. They discussed plans to make it more attractive for businesses moving to the area and to promote the town more. The council were very receptive to the innovative ideas from the chamber. Dominic says that when they have something more concrete they will feed back to the chamber.

#### **Guardian Write Up**

Wadebridge had a fantastic write up in The Guardian recently, on the back of West Britons perception of the town, which is a great acknowledgement from the county on how well we are doing. So well done to everyone! Liskeard's Chamber of Commerce, as well as others, have been in touch to see if Dominic and Darren can attend their meetings and help the towns. The chamber visited Camelford a few years ago, with very positive results. Dominic says that going forward, we are in a very strong position and the more people involved helping the chamber the better.

### **Independent Traders**

Rupert asks Darren if he has had any further luck with proving that Molesworth Street has the most independent traders in the UK. At the moment Gloucester Road in Bristol takes the crown and they recently featured on television regarding this. Darren has been in heated discussions with them and is now down to determining whether 5 or 6 building should be in the running. Darren said that they are including a Bakery which has more than 5 others so this should not be counted as it is a chain, they are asking whether Molesworth Street shops own or lease the buildings as this factors in. Gloucester Road claim to have 95 independent traders and Molesworth Street approximately 92, so we are close! Darren will keep us updated.

### **Wadebridge Bookshop**

Congratulations to Wadebridge Bookshop who have been nationally acclaimed as one of the top 50 bookshops in the UK. This is fantastic news for Rob and Anna and raises the bookshops profile nationally. Anna say's it's like getting a Michelin-star, she is terrified of losing it! Dominic mentioned this is another recognition of the towns success going forward and should be celebrated.

### **Regatta**

The chamber is teaming up with Padstow to agree an area marketing plan, they have a meeting with Rupert Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February for anyone who wants to get involved. Padstow gig club, Rock gig club, Wadebridge Kayak Club and Rob, Padstow's harbour master, are all keen to be involved. Rupert says that Oxford and Cambridgeshire rowing clubs have mentioned coming down! This really would be fantastic for the event. The Regatta will take place last weekend of July at the start of the summer holidays. More information to follow.

### **Jolley Ball**

Sarah Prosser and Dominic are organising a Dinner and Dance in September in memory of our friend Andy and to raise money for the Chamber. It is going to be a fun event with drinks on arrival, a casino and entertainment. This is proposed to be a smart evening suit or black tie event and fundraiser, with money raised to be split between the chamber and a charity of Fiona's choice. Provisional enquiries have been made about hiring the pavilion in the Royal Cornwall Showground. Sarah explains that there is a lot of things to pay for including hiring caterers, a casino, band etc so the ticket price will have to be £50 to cover this. Bands alone are £2000 but Sarah has managed to find one for £1400. The £50 will be money well spent as it will be a great chance to get dressed up and have fun. Sarah is hoping to sell 150 tickets, so the venue will have roughly 15 tables with 10 people on each. Sarah is also hoping to incorporate an auction to help raise extra money, plus host awards for local businesses. Dom suggests making it nearer Christmas? However they do decide to keep it in September. Rupert says the benefit to having is September is that then the money raised can go towards Christmas. Darren says it will be great time to celebrate the town and its success and it should also generate some great press coverage for Wadebridge. Rob from the bookshop says that for this sort of event, £50 is not a lot of money really. Phillip suggests being careful not to scare people off with the 'black tie' as some people may not want this, maybe make dress code just 'smart'? Sarah says it is nice to have opportunity to get dressed up but will consider making it a 'smart dress code' with lounge/dinner suits. There will be further updates at the next meeting.

### **Mayors Charity dinner - 17<sup>th</sup> March**

The event is to be lounge suit/black tie dinner and the invitations have gone around, the chamber has an invitation and Sarah, Mel, Darren and Dominic would like to go. Stephen says that he would like to award a youth who is working and doing really well for themselves and the town. The guest speaker will be Brian Whitford of the Princes trust who will provide a motivational speech for the youth council. The mayor also notes that recently he noticed Wadebridge Comprehensive has had higher A level results than Truro college, a great achievement!

### **Council meetings & Wren**

Stephen said it would be nice to have a member of the chamber at their monthly council meetings. He says that it wasn't always a good relationship between the council and the chamber, yet it has now strengthened and become very successful. Dom states that he will be happy to attend and for Stephen to let him know dates.

The mayor thanks Stephen Frankel for his brilliant presentation on Wren at a recent meeting. Stephen sees massive potential in plans for Wadebridge and is keen to make businesses aware of recent discussions. Dom suggests that they release the information properly and in the right order, with a full account of what they hope to achieve and the benefits to the local businesses. This is on next months agenda. Mel suggests a simplified explanation starting with the basics of Wren and what they do, she says to not assume people know what Wren is. Ann says a clear explanation of renewables etc would help.

The Town meetings are held once a year, normally in April, Stephen invites Dom & Stephen Frankel along to this years as guest speakers. As well as Wren he would also like to explore the idea of free parking and how they will pay for it. The meeting will give Dom and Stephen a great chance to talk and bring new ideas to the public. Next month Stephen Frankel will tell us more about his ideas to encapsulate the town on energy efficiency and saving money on bills, all of the chamber is intrigued and we will look forward to hearing more next month.

### **Rock Oyster**

It all seems to be ok with the oyster festival and it should run again next year. Mayor said it was to do with complaint about the music.

## **Christmas Weekend 2012**

Darren, Dominic, Mel, Rupert, Rob, Phil, Sarah met to discuss Christmas 2012 and all is coming on well. Rupert is to look at dates on when he can meet again. They are going to build on what they had last year and will aim for May to come back to the monthly meeting with a plan. They have already got the road closure forms in. They are hoping for a bigger market and Sarah says that Peninsula Market is keen to talk to us about a marquee, but the question will be where to put it. If anyone is interested in coming along to Christmas meeting then please contact Dominic.

## **Queens Diamond Jubilee 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Stephen tells us of Jubilee celebrations and says they will take place instead of usual fete. The Rugby club is doing a marquee with live bands and the cricket club will have a bar. It will run from midday until eleven. There will be lots of events including a dog show. Rachel reminds us of the two bank holidays this year on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June, just before the Royal Cornwall Show. Is Wadebridge going to open? Dom says that The Big Lunch 2012 is going to be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> which Harriet would like to be a community event so the shops should be shut so they can attend. It is half term and it will be quiet with the Royal Cornwall show at the end of that week, so it is suggested that the shops do open on the two bank holidays. Dom states that we are a business forum and should be open to provide services and shopping to people visiting the town. If it is confirmed that shops are to be open Mel states that they should do something similar to Christmas to advertise that the shops are open and make sure all shops are aware. It has also been mentioned about dressing shops for the Queens Jubilee ad make the most of the two bank holidays. This will be talked about more in the next meeting. As Dom says it is the perfect opportunity to drive people into the town.

## **Twinning Society – 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May**

Our French cousin's from Languieux in Brittany, France will be visiting this year and they have a very proactive mayor coming along who has been mayor for 22 years! They will be having an art exhibition and meeting members of the chamber.

## **St Pirans Day - 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Wadebridge to go Black and White! It would be great if all shops did something simple and waved a St Pirans flag (available from Vivienne's) from their shops and Darren suggests a window competition, judging would be on 5<sup>th</sup> March. So please dress your shops in Black and White for the day! Darren and Dom will be sporting their Cornish Kilts! Darren will try and get the Wadebridge Shipwrecks along and hopefully this will get Wadebridge in the paper again. Sarah suggests talking to Mrs Gladwell from St Breock School as they may be able to sing Cornish songs. The possibility of getting a Cornish bard or Johnny Cowling was also talked about. Nikki from The Tea Shop said that with the window competitions it is important to go around shops, number them and then ensure that the judges get round everyone that has entered, so no-one goes to the effort of decorating the window and gets missed. Phillip has a list of shops in the town which can be used. Nikki said there were 60+ shops that entered for the carnival shop window display.

## **Carnival**

Darren asks Nikki if anyone stepped forward to take the over the carnival as Nikki has stepped down. Nikki said that the Lions have now taken over, but Nikki will still be involved and attend meetings. Dom asks if she can then feed back information to the chamber. He said it will link in nicely with the Regatta as the Lions are also helping to organise that event.

## **Royal Cornwall Show - 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Tony Gegan says that the chamber have always had a big stand for the show and that the Advertisers have managed it for them and they will again this year. 'Wadebridge Street' was a great success last year winning third prize for best stand! They are now collecting deposits for those that would like a stand, those who exhibited last year will get first refusal but deposits do have to be paid by May 1<sup>st</sup> to secure your place. Please see details attached for more info. Tony says it will be great to have a 'Queens Jubilee' theme with colourful bunting, Mel tells us she will have some great bunting for sale in Arty Crafts so keep an eye out for that!

## **Any other Business**

### **Clean Cornwall**

Rupert tells us of 'Clean Cornwall' who organise two weeks a year when volunteers litter pick to help keep our county clean. They do a 'spring clean' and then another one in the autumn. Dom says this is something the police cadets could be interested in? If you are interested then please contact Dom or Rupert.

### **Town Manager**

Rachel asks if there is an update on the town centre manager that was discussed in the last meeting. She says that this is incredibly important and that Wadebridge could use the money from the supermarket grant to fund a manager. Darren agrees about the importance of a manager to pull everything together for Wadebridge, even if they were employed for just one or two days a month. Dom suggested that we arrange a visit from Falmouth's town manager for the April meeting and he would arrange this.

**Parking**

Rachel also suggests that the chamber pen a letter to the council regarding a barrier system for the car parks. It is a key element to get people to stay in the town longer to shop, as shopkeepers have found people rushing off as they have only put an hour on the car. If a barrier system was in place where you pay at the end then people can stay for as long as they need. Dom agrees to write a letter to Council.

**Welcoming New Members**

The chamber now welcomes new member Gill from Celtic Pine & Oak and Chris from The Vines Greengrocers. Gill loves Wadebridge and wanted to come along as she has read the minutes and has found the discussions dynamic and wanted to be a part of it. Chris said thank you to everyone for all the support and encouragement The Vines had when they first opened and tells us they have now opened a shop in Bodmin also.

**Website**

Mel makes a suggestion that all the contact emails and numbers of the chamber members should be readily available on the website. As if she wanted to email, for example, Sarah her email should be on there. Dom said that the website has been successful in generating enquires for the chamber. In Aprils meeting it will be discussed further, so to make it as useful and informative as possible.

**Minutes**

Nikki mentioned she doesn't always receive the minutes every month, Dom says to please be aware that sometimes they can make their way into your junk folders. It is suggested that more hard copies of the minutes are handed out, making them easier to read on hand for other employees of the shops to read. Please let us know any opinions on this.

Please note that the New Year starts March 1<sup>st</sup> and then subscriptions for the following year will be due. This will be for £50, please make cheques payable to the Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce and hand them into The North Cornwall Advertiser, Trindle House, Moleswirth Street, Wadebridge.

**Next Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at the Churchill Bars (upstairs) 5.45pm – all are welcome.**

**Agenda:**

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting
- 3. Treasurers Report
- 4. Matters Arising
- 5. Wren
- 6. Queens Jubilee
- 7. Jolley Ball
- 8. Crime Prevention
- 9. Events Committee update
- 10. Other business

**If you would like to become a member of the Chamber please contact Dominic. Alternatively you can use the form below.**

Dominic Walford: [dominic.walford@plugintothsun.co.uk](mailto:dominic.walford@plugintothsun.co.uk) Mob: 07875760933

**Annual subscription payment from March 1<sup>st</sup> – £50.** Cheques made payable to **Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce**

*Please drop into Kittows, Wadebridge*

Business name: ..... Contact .....  
Email address .....

Would you like to be included on the website YES/NO  
If so please provide us with the contact person and telephone number for Steve Coom of Razor Solutions to contact you

Name ..... Tel .....

**You do not have to attend the monthly meetings to be a member. Your financial contribution will aid the progress and development of Wadebridge town and ultimately your business - Thank you for your support - The Chamber Committee**