



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 21st March 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 (North Cornwall Advertiser & Sticky Fingers Nursery), Sarah Prosser (Local Eyes), Ann Jackson (Treasurer), Rupert Wilson (Seafood Restaurant & PATBF), Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Yvonne Robinson (The Heat Store), Stephen Frankel (WREN & Carhart Mill), Nicola Brooks (Brooks & Jeal Accountants), Darren Lewarne (Natwest Bank), Rob Burton (Wadebridge Bookshop), Anna Davidson (Wadebridge Bookshop), Tony Gregan (North Cornwall Advertiser Ltd), Phil Chanter (Devon & Cornwall Police), Steve Coom (Razor Solutions), Jason & Randi Henderson (Elixir Health Foods), Victoria Perry (Ralph & Co), Carole Bourne (Indigo), Jenna Heywood (Ann's Cottage and Minute Taker)

Apologies: Darren Rowe (Riverside Financial Planning), Stephen Knightley (Mayor - Wadebridge Town Council), Phillip Mutton (Trebtor Estates), Grenville & Susan Stanbury (Kittows), Richard Alexander (Alexander & Co), Angela North (HSBC), Nicky Kimberly (HSBC)

Minutes from February were proposed as accurate by Yvonne Robinson and seconded by Darren Lewarne.

Treasurers Report

For this year which starts from March, there are 15 paid up members. If you have not yet paid up for the year it is £50, more details at the end of minutes. Ann's tells us that the bank account is looking healthy at around £3,500.

Matters Arising

Wadebridge achievements

Following the success of Wadebridge Bookshop being nationally acclaimed as one of the top 50 bookshops in the UK and the positive write up of Wadebridge in the guardian newspaper, Dominic tells us that Sticky Fingers Nursery was picked out by Pirate FM to represent a Cornish Small-Medium Business and that they had featured on the radio today – so well done to Sticky Fingers!

Regatta

The Regatta will take place on the 18th & 19th August in the summer holidays. At present Dom is trying to confirm that all the gig clubs are definitely attending, he is talking to James from Sharps regarding this. Sarah and Dom have recently had a meeting with the town clerk and she has been very supportive of the event. There will be a raft race, tug-o-war, paddle boarding, canoe and gig racing from local clubs, live music and more! More information to follow.

Jolley Ball – 8th September

Dom and Sarah are still busy organising a Dinner and Dance in memory of our friend Andy and to raise money for the Chamber and a local charity. The date is now confirmed as the 8th September. It will primarily be a black tie event, with a casino, live band, charity auction and three course dinner. The casino is now booked and Dom has started to gather items for the charity auction, so far he has some signed sporting memorabilia and a Nathan Outlaw signed book, Dom is now on the lookout for other quality products to auction off, so please if you have anything that would be suitable, get in touch. On arrival

there will be sherry and champagne and a professional photographer on hand to take photographs for a small donation. The three course meal will be top class and served at the tables, there will be 15 tables with 10 guests on each. The charity auction will be straight after the meal and will be quick, sharp and fun - lasting at around 20 minutes. There will be a late license of 1pm. Tickets are £50, which may seem steep, however you get a lot for your money and the profits will be split between the chamber and a charity of Fiona's choice. The tickets will be on a first come, first served basis. Sarah will be sending an email round, so please look out for that one. Sarah from the Bridge On Wool will be running the bar and Tinkers Catering will be doing the food.

Other points

The Mayors Charity Dinner was attended by Sarah on behalf of the chamber. She says the event went well and was an enjoyable evening. The Rock Oyster Festival is going ahead on the 22nd-24th June and early bird tickets are available on their [website](#) now.

Christmas 14th – 16th December

The Town Hall has been booked for the whole weekend and the chamber has had a lot of success in getting craft stalls confirmed who can trade there for the whole weekend. So far there are 19 booked and the capacity is 26 so this is very good going. There will also be stalls going up Molesworth Street and on the Piazza. The Bungee Rope will be back again and he may also bring his carousel. Tim from Glass House may like to have the Grotto outside his premises again, Dominic will confirm with him. Sarah has suggested her husband's yurt outside freeing up Tim's canopy area, this would make a great Grotto! Sarah and Dominic have also been looking into a company that supply quality presents which come ready wrapped. They are traditional toys such as wooden toys and books, although they would cost a £1 and previously all Grotto gifts have been free. However as last year showed people are more than willing to donate money and the cost would soon be redeemed. It might be an idea to fully advertise the fact that the Grotto is free as some people were holding their distance last year. It should be fully advertised with flyers and posters going out well prior to the event. Sarah and Dom are also aiming to get the weekend in the press and on Pirate FM. Jo is happy to come back and do the face painting at the Grotto this year which is great. It was agreed that collection boxes need to go out a lot sooner this year, as early as September, once the carnival have finished with them. Congratulations goes again to the [Bridge Bistro](#) who have raised another £69 for the Christmas Lights, they do this by making cookies which people donate money for, a great idea! Another idea is a raffle, which Jason and Randi from [Elixir Health Foods](#) did and raised £150! Any help is greatly appreciated.

St Piran's Day

As Dom says the event was not such a great success and didn't go as well as planned, so more organisation must go into the day next year. This will be done and we will get the message out earlier as it should be well attended if done right.

Royal Cornwall Show

There are still one stand available for the show and it is on a first come, first served basis. It costs £465+VAT. This will be money well spent when you consider the benefits and the huge amount of footfall from the show. If you are interested in a stand please contact Dominic.

WREN & Applying for Enterprise Zone status

Stephen Frankel now gives the chamber an overview of Wren and what they are about to dispel any misconceptions. This is accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. This is so members of the chamber can be clear on what WREN means for Wadebridge, benefits to their businesses and WREN's goals.

Membership to WREN is just a £1, it is completely owned by its members so if you joined you would have just as much say as anyone, so if you are not already a member, please join [here](#).

You would have all received the 'WREN & Wadebridge Businesses' file that was sent out to chamber members last week, which outlines the proposals for Wadebridge to be become a low carbon Enterprise Zone and create The WREN EcoPark, which will be on the outskirts of town and aims to attract high value investment and employment.

As a reminder the WREN EcoPark will have the following attributes:

- Sustainable construction to the highest energy efficiency standards
- Sustainable district heating
- Sustainable urban drainage and water management
- Local renewable energy with beneficial tariff
- Innovation Centre with University links
- Reduced business rates for businesses moving to the area and new start up companies
- Relaxed planning rules for new businesses above
- Opportunity to attract European funding for construction of the park to make it financially viable

The EcoPark will draw in new businesses and also house existing ones. Stephen explains that it will attract a lot of business investment and encourage people to move to the area, which will in turn generate more income to Wadebridge town. The EcoPark will also create long term jobs for our younger generation, with the idea that they will not have to leave Cornwall to find well paid work.

As you are all aware WREN is generating a lot of attention nationally as adopters of a low carbon economy, which as Dom says adds real value to the town and gives Wadebridge a clear identity. The eco-build is a phased plan with several sites

identified. The initial proposed site is to be at Dunveth Ind Est. Dom says that Richard Jones who owns the majority of the land, has all the planning permissions and groundwork in place and that they can unlock finance from European funds, which is a necessity if the EcoPark is to be a reality. With the green credentials it will attract small, high power companies; they just need to prove that businesses will get involved to receive the funding. Ann asks Rupert what the likelihood of getting the European funding is and he explains that the WREN EcoPark does tick all the boxes and things are looking positive as the land already has the planning permissions etc. Stephen, Rupert, the Mayor of Wadebridge, Dom and Sarah will be scoping a document with a clear strategy and they have a meeting on the 16th April with the LEP and the CDC (Cornwall Development Council) so we will know more then.

Mel asks if there are many other towns that have proposals such as ours, Dom says that there are but Wadebridge is head and shoulders above the rest, Stephen explains the Cornwall Council describe Wadebridge as their 'jewel in the crown'. So now it comes to a vote on whether the chamber members present at the meeting are happy to go ahead with plans for the WREN EcoPark. Jason Henderson proposes the plan and Yvonne and Rachel second it. We then take a vote and it was a unanimous decision to go ahead. If anyone who didn't attend the meeting has any questions you can contact [Dom](#), [Stephen](#) or [Sarah](#) for clarification.

Crime Prevention Report

Police Report to the Chamber of Commerce for the period 22nd February to 21st March 2012-04-01

There were 6 recorded crimes in the town centre, 3 x assaults, 1 x criminal damage, 1 x burglary and 1 x shop lifting.

This was the same amount for the same period last year.

14 sheds had been broken into at the Ball roundabout site and items such as strimmer's and hand tools had been stolen from 7 sites, there is possible forensic evidence on a screwdriver found on scene.

D & C police have a new Chief Constable Sean Sawyer, he is the former ACC and a very experienced police officer and will be in post for at least a year.

Queens Diamond Jubilee 2nd - 5th June

The organisation of this weekend will be mostly down to the Council. As we know there will be two bank holidays here, plus there is half term and it is the weekend before the Royal Cornwall Show. On Saturday 2nd there will be celebrations on Jubilee Fields and on Sunday 3rd Harriet is organising the Big Lunch. Dom says that it is up to the retailers what they decide to do - regarding whether to open or not on the bank holidays. Rachel says it is not good when some shops are open and some are not.

Now the discussion turns to bunting as there is a particularly great need for it this year and thoughts are it should be up all summer and not just for the jubilee week. Randi says that Harriet has had bunting for the big lunch handmade, however she will not have enough for the whole town and she wouldn't be able to promise that the chamber could borrow it. Dominic says he will call Harriet for some advice. The carnival committee do have bunting, however the Folk Festival have had to pay for it in borrowing it from them, so as Mel says it may be worth giving them money to hire it. Tony says that the chamber have bunting but it will also not be enough to go around the whole town. Dom guesstimates that roughly 1500m of bunting will be needed to cover the whole town, telehandlers will need to be hired and it will need roughly 15 people and a day's work. Mel suggests as it is constantly being used for different events and by different committees that everyone should club together and budget annually for bunting and bunting repairs. Stephen suggests asking the council for a part of the community fund to use on bunting, the chamber were also going to put in a request for Christmas lights, Rachel says apply for Christmas lights, then use the Christmas light money that's in the bank for bunting? Other ideas were having Cornish Bunting, or Anna says to have lots of different styles and include paisley print etc, Mel says that it might be an idea to try and source scrap parachute material, then you will just need a quality wire to put it on which will last for years, Sarah's husband has an industrial sewing machine so could anything be done with him? It is decided to discuss bunting issues further next time!

Any Other Business

Business rates

Dom advises that if anyone is contacted about increased business rates then do not pay them a penny. If you have any issues approach the council, as you can challenge the facts and find out things yourself. Dom has recently got his business rates for Stick Fingers nursery reduced, due to the fact the premises are 4 units converted into a nursery. Dominic says he will be happy to do a talk if anyone is interested. It is agreed that he will, with the help of Grenville Standbury (RICS Surveyor) put together a paper giving some advice on how to do this.

Website

Steve Coom requests that more members get involved with the website and send in any information, offers, promotions or events that could be posted to help benefit their businesses. His email is steve.c@razorsolutions.com or you can reach him through the website 'contact us' section. It is Dom's aim to utilise the website and make it a one-stop shop for people to find what they want in the town, e.g. Plumbers etc. Mel's suggestion of having a list of all the chamber members' details would also be helpful. Dom says he would like to have links to information about all the chamber activities such as the Regatta, Royal Cornwall Show and WREN EcoPark. Any more ideas on what you would like to see on the website would be appreciated. www.wadebridge-chamber.co.uk

Welcoming New Members

We then welcome new members Carole Bourne from Indigo in Foundry Court and Victoria Perry from Ralph & Co Solicitors.

Town Centre Manager

Carole brings up a point she is interested in from last months minutes, which is regarding the town manager, which she thinks is a very good idea. This is definitely something the chamber would like to do and they are hoping to use money from the supermarket grants (Section 106) to fund the role. There is £175,000 purely to be spent on the town centre, so hopefully the chamber can get hold of that money, at present meetings regarding what to do with this money are being cancelled due to lack of interest, there will be updates on this in future meetings. Dom passes around a brochure from Falmouth, which is a guide to all the towns' events throughout the year, something like this would be great for Wadebridge. Another idea to pay for a town centre manager is for all businesses to pay an extra 1% in business rates which would raise an awful lot. We will hopefully get Richard, Falmouth's town manager in to see us for advice. As a side note Rupert also says to get Martin from Visit Cornwall along to one of our meetings.

Request for two Corgis!

Tony Gregan is after two Corgis for the Royal Cornwall Show to help with the Jubilee Theme. He will pay for them to get into the show if anyone knows any? It was suggested he contact John Bristow of Polmora Kennels, [Hawksland Physiotherapy](#) for Dogs or Shona Moon from [Come to Heal](#). Good Luck with that Tony!

Please note that the new year started March 1st and your subscriptions for the following year are now due. This will be £50, please make cheques payable to the Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce and hand them into Kittows. If you are unsure whether you have paid or not, Dom will be happy to help.

Next Meeting: 18th April 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. Bunting
- 7. Town Manager
- 8. Events Committee update (Regatta, Carnival & Christmas etc)
- 9. 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 Mob: 07875760933

Annual subscription payment from March 1st – £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