



Minutes of the Chamber Meeting

Wednesday 17th July 2013 – Churchill Bar, Wadebridge

President: Mr D Walford
Chairman: Mrs S Prosser
Vice Chairman: Mr A Jones
Hon. Secretary: Mr D Rowe
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N Brookes

Present: Sarah Prosser (local Eyes), Adrian Jones (IT Consultant & WREN) , Chris Hewitt (Picture & Coffee House), Mel Hardie (Arty Crafts), Stephen Frankel (Cahart Mill & WREN), Philip Mutton (Trebor Estates), Stephen Knightley (Stephen Knightley Associates), Nick Shelley (Nick Shelley Electrical); Richard Alexander (Alexander and Co); Claire Sandercock (Trendspot Ltd); Robert Rush (Guest from PFA Research Ltd); Rupert Wilson (Ship Inn); Rachel Daniel (One Step Ahead).

Apologies: Darren Lewarne (NatWest Newquay); Steve Coom (Razor Solutions)

Minutes: Laura Knightley

Minutes from July's meeting were read and agreed.

Matters arising:

The Chamber made a reference to John Warrick who sadly passed away this week. The Chambers are going to send a card and Sarah Prosser will be representing the Chambers at the funeral.

The Tourist Information Centre has been missed by the town. The job has gone due to it no longer being a paid role. There has been talk of having a "Virtual TIC" at the Town Hall, although it is felt that this is not the same as having a person as a point of contact. Discussed turning it in to a commercial venture role. We also discussed using the Town Museum as a possible venue to have a TIC. Other TIC's are making money by linking with B&B's & shops.

Treasurers Report

We have got £1,234 in the bank although, we have a £1,100 electric bill to pay. We are still to receive the monies from the Royal Cornwall Show, the income or the sponsorship from The River Camel Festival, payment from the Camels and the BBQ &

bungee from the RCF. Altogether after expenses were paid £500 profit was made from the RCF. Benches left behind by Sharps Brewery were vandalised. Fortunately Sharps did not make us pay to replace them.

Police Report

No police present.

Wadebridge Energy Futures

On the 21st September there is going to be an opportunity to have a discussion about the past and the future of Wadebridge and how technologically advanced we are. Wadebridge has been picked for a Superfast Broadband Trial. We are very excited about this opportunity as it is a real privilege. This is part of a 3-day event to be held between the Museum and the WREN shop.

Smart Innovation Hub

There is a very large sum of European funding money to put in to the future of technological development. Wadebridge would like to receive investment for Smart Cornwall. We would be able to use the money to invest in commercial capacity. As a town we need to discuss the positive and negative observations of superfast broadband on businesses and homes in Wadebridge. Plans for the next round of EU funding are being developed.

Superfast Broadband Project

Rob Rush, MD of PFA Research Project Ltd came and spoke at the commerce. He is part of a 15 month project to look at the environmental impact of Superfast broadband. The study will be launched next month. The study is looking for 50 homes and 20 businesses to form study groups that are interested in being part of a long term study who are prepared to report data about their use of energy, technology and lifestyle.

The Chamber of Commerce can help by identifying businesses making good use of superfast broadband for case studies and by supporting the project as it picks up speed!

www.pfa-research.com

Platt Relief Road

Philip Mutton has proposed a plan to build a relief road to help ease traffic congestion on the Platt. Plans have been drawn up to show how this might work. It would mean that cars would use the bypass more effectively and only come through town as a needs must.

Matters raised:

- The proposed road would not allow delivery vans to stop outside the shops in town
- Shops would be able to display more outside
- There would be no right turn for cars at the end of the bridge meaning cars would have to use the bypass to get to Lidl
- Would it pose a problem for emergency services?

- Molesworth's pedestrianised street cannot take the weight of the delivery lorries – it's destroying the paving
- The Old Bridge has a weight limit which is often exceeded and not policed
- Would a depot outside of town solve the problem of large lorries coming in to town – Padstow already do this

The commerce all voted in favour to take this idea forward and put it to the Town Council and The Neighbourhood Plan.

Christmas Committee

We need a sub group for the Christmas committee. There will be a meeting to discuss ideas on Monday 16th September @ 11 at the Picture Gallery. Plans need formalising.

Ideas:

- Late night shopping Friday
- More going on Saturday day/night
- Displays
- Santa suits/lighter bike possession
- Traders to stay open later Friday/Saturday and scrap Sunday
- Lighter bike parade to meet the lantern possession and the band on the Old Bridge

AOB

- The Ship opens at 3 on Friday
- Picture House has got a 2x2m gazebo, it will be up for the folk festival (linking to the 'inside out' theme). There will be a BBQ and beers.
- Need to be better benefits of being a member of the COC. This will be added to next meeting's agenda.

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 18th September,
Date of Next Meeting: 15th May, (then 16th October, 20th November, 18th
December, 15th January 2013, 19th February, 19th March, 16th April, 21st May,
18th June)**

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