



Minutes of the Chamber Meeting

Wednesday 18th September 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) , 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); Rupert Wilson (Ship Inn). *(No sign-in list distributed so this is from memory)*

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

Minutes: Laura Knightley

Minutes from the last Chamber meeting read and agreed.

Matters arising:

- The Platt relief road – Adrian Jones has drafted a letter to the Camel Trail sub committee asking that the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Council should consider the relief road.
- Sarah Prosser told the Chamber that she will be putting in a letter of resignation as Chair of the Chamber due to work commitments. It was agreed that with this news the vice chair would chair tonight's meeting. Adrian thanked Sarah for all the hard work that she had put in during her time as chair.

Police report – from the period 21/08/13 – 18/09/13

Wadebridge had a relatively quiet summer with just 3 crimes in the town

centre which were 2 x shop lifting and 1 x possession of a class A drug the latter of was as a result of an operation targeting the main pubs in town. All 4 pubs visited had positive tests for cocaine in both male and female toilets. The police felt the police presence gave reassurance to the good people of town. Three prolific shoplifters in the area have been sentenced to custodial time ranging from 6 – 12 months. Finally two teenagers responsible for over 20 commercial burglaries earlier this year have also been sentenced to 18 months each at a youth offenders centre.

Treasurers report

After allowing for other expenses to be paid out we will have £1,700 clear in the bank. There has been a review of this years and last years subs, there are up to 30 people who are on the website that have not paid any subs. There are also 8 people that have paid! All will be contacted.

Last year's Christmas lights cost £1,550 and the fireworks cost £1,100. We have already received £300 from the Rotary Club for Christmas. Last year's Christmas costs were high, mainly due to poor weather conditions. The Davey brothers have given a lot of free help patching the lights on the bridge. A big thanks to them, although it has highlighted that the lights need replacing. This will cost £2,000. We may not be able to display lights on the bridge this year due to the cost. Philip suggested that we could have an appeal for donations towards new lights. Philip has also proposed to try and raise money by asking commercial landlords to contribute. This was seconded.

Nick has offered to help the Davey brothers this year with electrical work. The chambers know many people in the community who have specialist skills and trades, we feel it would be good for the town if we could utilise them to help with community events. WREN will mobilise support for the cause – its site has over 1000 members and has had success in raising money previously.

Renewable lighting perhaps? Steve added that there is money from last year's Cornwall Council 'community chest' budget as it was not spent – he will question if it can be transferred to this year's budget. If so some can be put towards the lights. It has also been put forward that the NCA could make an announcement appealing for contributions. Sarah will also put an appeal in this months Local Eye. Rupert suggested that he generated a lot of interest for The Ship by posting flyers through doors, he has offered to deliver some explaining about the lights when he next does the rounds. We also need to but some new collection buckets, we miss out on opportunities to collect money through not having them, we need about 8 people collecting, the Chamber also agreed that we could set up a Just Giving Page.

Philip has kindly agreed to under write the amount until the monies have been raised.

It was agreed that we should start fund-raising now for Christmas rather than leave it and end up rushing to raise money.

Sarah Prosser will stay on the craft fare. Wadebridge will not have marquees outside although we will have the indoor market in the town hall. We are hoping that shops will continue with the inside/out theme. Sarah has received 50 applications for the indoor market for 20 spaces! We discussed a slight increase in the price of the stand due to high demand. We are hoping to make a profit of £600.

During Late Night Shopping weekend we need a new Santa's Grotto, we could look at sponsorship but we need about £200. We also need a yurt, Santa gift bags, the grotto needs to be decorated and have the suit cleaned. We also need help on the night with someone helping Santa in the grotto – CRB checks also need doing. The Christmas committee will meet before the next Chamber meeting and they will give us updates.

Insurances are up to date, the £900 paid have also covered events such as the Folk Festival and the carnival.

AOB

What do we want from the Chamber?

Mel thinks that we should gather data of businesses, contacts and organisations, we should be utilising people with skills in our local community. We could do this by taking data when people subscribe. Surveys have gone out before and the information does not come back, we need ideas on how to gather data as getting in with local businesses has real benefits.

The Chamber needs to know its goal, we have run a lot of events over the last few years, Mel went on to say that not all Chambers do as much events organising as we do. Sarah went on to say that all events take a lot of time and effort. It was agreed that in November will set an agenda to be actioned January 2014. During 2014 we will aim to do more campaigning, we will put together a benefits package, membership cards/discount, make people more aware of the Chambers, try and get more membership and ultimately we would like the Chamber as a business. Members have agreed that they will talk to shops surrounding them to see what they would like to see from the Chamber – what would make them join.

Chair & Vice Chair

As Sarah is stepping down as Chair Vice Chair, Adrian Jones, is constituted to step in to role. It was agreed that Adrian would be Chair of the Chamber of Commerce. We now need a new Vice Chair by the next meeting, once a name has been put forward we can vote.

Thank you once again Sarah for all the hard work you have put in to the Chambers.

Congratulations to Nigel Wigget on 30 years at the Bridge Bike Hire!