

MINUTES

HAILSHAM & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE MEETING

**HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2016
AT THE BOSHIP LIONS FARM HOTEL, HELLINGLY, BN27 4AT**

- | | Actions |
|---|----------------|
| <p>1. Present:</p> <p>Anton Bree – Chairman – Ross & Co (AB)
Andrew Rannie – Treasurer – Dawson Hart (AR)
Colin Slaughter – Town Centre Committee - (CPS)
Nick Collinson – Traffic & Parking Committee – Chapter 12 (NC)
Clive Soper – Committee Member - SE Tyres Wealden (CS)
Jacky Hinton – Secretary – Typing Cloud (JH)</p> <p>Petrina Mayson – Now! Charity Group Ltd
Peter Willson – Willson & Kempe Semi-Grand Pianos (PW)
Jarred O’Toole – Wealden Eye (JO’T)</p> | |
| <p>2. Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>There were no apologies received.</p> | |
| <p>3. Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None were declared</p> | |
| <p>4. Minutes of the previous meeting dated 7 January 2016</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting and amendments were approved and the following amendments and actions are carried forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ RS agreed to write an article regarding the replacement post for AB. | RS |
| <p>5. Matters arising from the previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed and there were no matters arising other than what was already planned to be discussed.</p> | |
| <p>6. Membership Update</p> <p>The membership spreadsheet has been updated and current member and renewal fees have been paid at the time of the minutes being recorded.</p> | |

The position of membership secretary was discussed and AR and JH suggested the possibility of splitting the role between themselves with AR handling the finance responsibility and JH handling the administration side. AR/JH agreed to discuss further how this could be implemented.

Increasing membership fees were discussed, for example whether to include the networking breakfast into the fee which would encourage attendance or offer both an inclusive or non-inclusive fee for the breakfast meeting. A suggestion of £18.00 including breakfast and £9 without? It was agreed to discuss this issue further before presenting it at the AGM.

Membership has increased to 58 with two confirmed new members this month and three new possible applicants pending.

New members this month are Mick Watts of Calibre Telecoms Ltd and Mike Seager of Cerberus Glazing Ltd.

7. **Treasurer's Update**

The Chamber's finances are healthy at the present time. AR confirmed that we can afford to support new member initiatives financially and support events being back by Chamber e.g. Wealden Eye offer to members etc ongoing.

8. **PR and Marketing**

The Committee discussed ideas for promoting the chamber and a coffee morning was proposed whereby a Chamber member could bring along a potential new member for an informal group networking discussion with coffee and pastries. It was agreed to carry this idea forward.

ALL

The Committee also discussed the possibility of appointing a designated recruiter for the Chamber and it was agreed to discuss this at the AGM in April. J'OT also suggested that we needed much more promotion of the Chamber and it was agreed to think about how we could promote more and utilise committee members for such a task. JH agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

JH

JO'T put forward the suggestion of the Chamber using a quick payment method such as PayPal or 'on the spot' payments as a means of taking payment thereby eliminating the likelihood of losing a potential member if we are unable to take instant payment. It was agreed to investigate and discuss instant payment methods at the next meeting.

9. **General Committee Business**

AB confirmed that even though he has stepped down from his role as Chairman he would still be fully supporting the Chamber as a committee member.

Two nominations for Chair and Vice Chair have been put forward for consideration at the AGM they are Petrina Mason, Now! Charity Group and Claire Baker, Chalvington Communications Ltd.

AR confirmed that he has a constitution ready for the Chamber to review in advance of the AGM. AR agreed to circulate a draft copy of the constitution by email to Chamber members for consideration after the meeting with a view to adopting the constitution at the AGM.

AR

The committee discussed the WSP (Wealden Strategic Partnership) funding that was available. After some discussion it was agreed that AB would submit a bid to enable the Chamber to have use of a 'pop up shop' or similar. The deadline for the bid is 29 February 2016.

AB

10. **Report from Sub-Committees**

10.1 **Traffic and Parking**

CPS confirmed that he is still trying to organise a meeting with East Sussex Highways regarding the parking of vehicles for sale on Highways verges. CPS said that he will continue to push to resolve this issue.

10.2 **Town Centre Improvements (Ongoing)**

CS attended the HAAP (Hailsham Area Action Plan Steering Group) meeting and is also meeting with a Wealden representative today. CS agreed to report back to the next Chamber meeting on the 3 March.

CS

NC confirmed that the Town Centre Improvements have been delayed and are due to start in April 2016.

The Chamber committee mentioned the possibility of reduced rates being adopted for businesses affected during the roadworks. It was mentioned that Uckfield businesses had negotiated reduced business

rates during roadworks in the town. AR agreed to take this initiative forward with the support of the Chamber's backing.

AR

The Chamber continue to take a positive view about the changes by promoting the benefits of more footfall to businesses when the area is paved as it provides a safer area for families shopping.

The Chamber confirmed that the information regarding the proposed improvements can be found on the Chamber website and the Town Council website and that the Hailsham street markets and Farmers markets will still follow the same yearly schedule.

10.3 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

A letter was sent to Anthony Wakefield, Inspector of Sussex Police regarding increased anti-social behaviour in and around Hailsham. Mr Wakefield asked Alex Sim, Sergeant of Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team to get in touch to discuss the issues.

11. **Events**

➤ **Hailsham Chamber AGM** – The date of the AGM has been changed to 27 April to enable AB to be present at the meeting. Chapter 12 Wine Bar was again discussed as a possible venue with a buffet or meal to be provided and subsidised by the Chamber. It was agreed it would be much more expedient to hold an informal AGM and all agreed. Stephen Lloyd has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the event. JH has agreed to act as liaison with Stephen about timings etc.

JH

➤ **Late night Xmas Shopping 2016** – CPS to update the Committee at the next meeting on the 3 March regarding his meeting with Tracey Ryland and sponsorship.

CPS

➤ **Chamber Xmas Meal 2016** – CPS asked that we add the Xmas Meal to the next agenda.

JH

➤ **Hailsham Business Forum** – The Chamber are sponsoring the Business Forum which is being held on Tuesday 23 February at 6:30 at the Civic Offices, Hailsham. AR/NC will be attending.

➤ **Share the Knowledge** – update – Wealden Regeneration Team are due to circulate dates of free workshops available to the local business community. JH agreed to circulate these to members as soon as they were available.

JH

➤ **Now!Training Open Evening** – PM announced that Now!Training are organising an open evening in April inviting the business park to come and meet them. The committee agreed

CPS

that the Chamber will sponsor the event and PM will confirm the date as soon as possible.

PM

- **Hailsham Festival 8 – 18 September** – PW asked for ideas for a theme for this year's festival. It was agreed to put any ideas forward to PW.

12. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held after the Chamber Breakfast meeting on Thursday, 3 March 2016 at 9:30am.

It was agreed to continue to hold committee meetings after the breakfast meetings as this proved more convenient with committee members and it was also agreed that the main restaurant of the hotel as it proved a much better venue to hold the meeting.