

## **MINUTES**

### **HAILSHAM & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON 7 JULY 2016**

**AT THE BOSHIP LIONS FARM HOTEL, HELLINGLY, BN27 4AT**

- |   | <b>Actions</b>       |
|---|----------------------|
| <p>1. <b>Present:</b></p> <p>Petrina Mayson (PM)<br/>Colin Slaughter (CPS)<br/>Andrew Rannie (AR)<br/>Nick Collinson (NC)<br/>Jacky Hinton (JH)<br/>Jarred O'Toole (JOT)<br/>Mina O'Brien (MOB)<br/>Peter Willson (PW)<br/>Dave Barton (DB)</p>   |                      |
| <p>2. <b>Apologies for Absence:</b></p> <p>Claire Baker (CB)<br/>Clive Soper (CS)</p>   |                      |
| <p>3. <b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>None were declared.</p>  |                      |
| <p>4. <b>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the matters arising are dealt with in the following items of the minutes.</p>   |                      |
| <p>5. <b>Events and Sponsorship</b></p> <p><u>Share the Knowledge</u> - MO'B confirmed that the 9 November had been agreed upon as the date for the Share the Knowledge event. It was agreed that the event should start at 6pm for 6.30pm and wrap up at around 8.30pm. Speakers would have half hour slots each with a 5 minute question and answers slot at the end. The speakers are confirmed as Mina O'Brien (Ditzy Media), Rachel Stone (Bespoke Training Eastbourne) and Emma Pearce (Pearce Marketing) with three topics of IT and Social Media, Business Coaching and Leadership, Sales and Marketing being covered. It was agreed that the event would subsidised for Hailsham Chamber members set at £5 per head and a fee of £10 for non-members. MOB/JH agreed to create a flyer for the event.</p> | <p><b>MOB/JH</b></p> |

Xmas 2016 – Thursday 16 December – It was agreed to delay the decision about the venue until CB is in attendance at the next meeting. This item will be carried forward to the next agenda.

JH

BMW Joint Event – CPS reported that this event had been deferred.

Joint Chamber Events – PM reported that the next ACES meeting would be held on the 19 July and that PM/CPS would be attending.

Hailsham Chamber Exhibition Event - ALL agreed to carry this idea forward to next year.

JH

FSB Events – Hailsham Curry Club - Raj Dutt – 20 September – JH will promote this event in the July Chamber newsletter. CPS said that this was a joint event between FSB and Hailsham Chamber.

## 6. **Membership Update**

JH confirmed that there were 52 confirmed members with 13 renewals outstanding. It was agreed that JH/AR/AB would contact the 13 outstanding businesses with a view to obtaining feedback from them.

JH reported one new membership this month:

- Parmar Staffing

With a possible five pending memberships:

- Pest Prevention
- McCrudden Training
- Warren's Lawyers
- Mad Group
- Lions Hotel Group

PM/CB reiterated that the target membership for the Chamber to achieve by next June was 100 members.

Hailsham Chamber Newsletter – JH confirmed that the newsletter is going from strength to strength with 100 subscribers last month. JH reported that nearly 50% of those subscribers are opening the email which ALL agreed was extremely encouraging.

## 7. **Treasurer's Update**

The Chamber's finances are healthy at the present time.

## 8. **PR, Marketing and Social Media**

Social Media Update – MO'B presented the social media update to the Committee and confirmed that we now had over 200 followers on

Twitter and 100 Facebook likes. MO'B said that as members become more aware of the sites there will be much more activity created.

MO'B/JH agreed to organise more articles for Press Releases in the Hailsham Herald to increase the Chamber's profile.

**MO'B/JH**

Webreality – DB informed the Committee that work is well under way in creating a new website for the Hailsham Chamber. DB explained that there would be 8/9 internal pages and the designs are being worked on at the moment. DB detailed that there would be a single page for all events and each member would be able to submit their event (via the administrator) which would then be automatically deleted after the event has taken place. It was agreed that DB/PH/CB/JH would organise a further meeting in two weeks' time for a further Webreality progress presentation by DB. DB suggested that the timing of the website launch should be at the September or October Networking Breakfast meeting and ALL agreed to discuss this further after the next progress meeting.

**JH**

9. **General Committee Business**

Pop-Up Shop (WSP Communities Fund Bid) – NC/AB reported that the unit they were interested in was not available until September and asked the Committee if they were prepared to wait until then as not format has been agreed as yet. PM asked whether it was possible to form a 'joint venture' for the leasing of the pop-up shop and NC said he was sure this was possible if a suitable format was agreed between the two parties. AB agreed to renegotiate the terms of the lease and liaise with PM and AR/NC agreed to investigate the legalities. ALL agreed that a decision needs to be reached about charges and use of the shop. NC agreed to speak to Wealden further

**AB  
AR  
NC**

10. **Report from Sub-Committees**

10.1 **Traffic and Parking**

CPS reported continuing ongoing issues with illegal parking on the opposite verge at Stone Cross Nurseries. CPS reported that six cars are being parked on the verge for sale and it is clearly one person operating a business which involves about 20/30 cars in and around Hailsham Town centre. CPS has spoken to the Enforcement Officer at Wealden DC who said they would look at the situation.

CPS updated the Committee regarding the Brown Sign application for Stone Cross Nurseries which has been refused permission. NC commented that certain criteria has to be met such as visitor numbers and accessibility to the site. CPS said that the application was ongoing and will report back to the Committee if the outcome was successful.

NC reported that there are still ongoing problems with parking at Diplocks, Chandlers and Apex Industrial Estate and that negotiations with the Town Council about the land opposite Chandlers were not supported.

## 10.2 Town Centre Improvements

AB/NC reported that the Town Centre improvement works had started and that the works had commenced at the north east end of the high street by Prezzos and will be working their way down the high street going west with a view to completion by September. In Oct/Nov works will commence in George Street and in the New Year, Vicarage Lane. Vicarage Lane will have enforcements in place to keep the high street flowing.

NC reported that the Chamber have organised for banners to be displayed at relevant points around the town to highlight the fact that Hailsham was still open for business and that the Hailsham Chamber were supporting businesses in the town. NC confirmed that a design has been selected from a selection submitted by The Sign Shop and are just waiting for the relevant authorities to give the go ahead to display them. NC agreed to ask Nic Cole to take some photos once the banners are on display.

NC

AR questioned whether High Street businesses would qualify for Business Rate Relief due to the roadworks. AR said that Oldfield Smith & Co (one of our Chamber members) agreed to talk to members about this issue. AR to inform Chamber members.

AR

JOT proposed the need to push a positive message across Hailsham with regard to the town improvements and to try and quash any negativity about the works as they will bring enormous benefits to the Town.

## 10.3 Anti-Social Behaviour

JOT had no further updates regarding anti-social behaviour but reminded members that they need to email Sussex Police to report any incidents to make sure they are logged.

AR said that Paul Taylor from Airtight Security Systems would be presenting at the next Networking Breakfast.

### **Any Other Business**

Polegate Breakfast Meeting – The Committee suggested to support Polegate Business Breakfast as their attendance numbers are dwindling. The next breakfast meeting is on the 28 July and a few

members agreed to attend to show support. AR suggested whether we should think about a possible amalgamation with them as part of Hailsham Chamber and PM agreed to talk to Chloe Eason who co-ordinates the networking event for Polegate.

PM

Hailsham Bonfire Society – ALL agreed to that the Hailsham Chamber should sponsor the Hailsham bonfire Society with a sum of £50 towards the material needed for the torches.

**Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting to be held after the Chamber breakfast on 4 August 2016.