

Meeting Presteigne & Norton Chamber of Trade and Commerce The Farmers Arms , Presteigne, Monday 7th July 2014

Present: James Tennant Eyles (JTE), Charlie Minskip (Chair) (CM), Ann Wake (AW), Colin Felgate (CF), Charlie Kingham (CK), Dale Gorman, Andrea Jude (AJ) & Lysette Phillips (Secretary) (LP).

Apologies: Wendy Toomey (WT), Leon Abecasis (LA), Paul Taylor (PT), Glenys Millichamp (GM), Ruth, Ian

Minutes of Meeting Monday 9th June 2014

Minutes agreed.

Matters Arising

Adopt a Site scheme: WT had provided answers to questions raised by the committee at the last meeting and all present agreed everything appeared satisfactory, therefore there were no objections raised to going ahead with the scheme. It was confirmed there was a 3 month break clause in place and CM suggested that if public houses in Presteigne could be persuaded to use the recycling area instead of paying the council directly, establishments could make significant savings on their costs and would improve recycling rates. JTE reiterated that this scheme could become an onerous task and would require a full commitment for it to succeed. CM suggested that a 3 month trial was undertaken to see if it was fees-able as everyone present used the site. Good co-ordination would be required with a rota for volunteers and one person as a point of contact for enquiries and to contact Powys County Council when the bins need emptying. CF suggested a sign could be put up letting people know the site was being looked after by CoT. CM to bring a possible rota for the next meeting.

Bags For Life: No feed back from RB about bags and possible wholesale prices. AW to follow up after next week.

Tee Shirts: CM reported that he had discussed this idea with several people but their feedback had not been very positive, however he was still keen to pursue the idea. AW agreed that tee shirts would be popular with tourists.

Treasurer's Report

Balance at previous meeting	£368.03
Income from month subs	£160
Net proceeds from wine evening	£374.74
Outgoings - insurance	£95.89
Balance at 7 th July 2014	£806.88

AW reported that their had been an increase in the number of new members with 9 new members and The CoT currently stood in profit although the insurance is paid in arrears.

Christmas Lights

CM reminded everyone that unlike neighbouring towns, the Christmas lights were paid for and put up by CoT at no cost to businesses or council tax payers. JTE informed the committee that although he had hoped to have a reply from PCC about the possible grant application, he was still waiting for an answer, however he had been told that the application had gone through to the portfolio holder with a recommendation for approval. Although this was no guarantee at this point, JTE was still hopeful of a successful

outcome. In the event that PCC do refuse the grant, it was agreed by The Committee that as there was enough money in the bank, CoT should go ahead and buy the lights themselves. There is however, not enough money to buy the cables and fittings needed to hang the lights but JTE informed everyone that there was the possibility of a donation to provide these extra items. It was agreed to go ahead with paying the 20% deposit to secure the lights and to buy enough to provide a double string of lights for the streets. CF will be the lead on delivering the lighting project.

Real Christmas trees are supplied by Nigel Williams for the High Street which will also require lights. It was discussed that these lights were still with RB and DC but if they are not or are not working, new lights will also be required for the trees. JTE suggested making an electric lead available at the tree points in advance to allow for this provision. CM asked where the old bicycle wheel lights had gone as many people in the town had asked about these but CF told the Committee that these old wheels were no longer viable. CM suggested that if new ones could be sourced, perhaps local businesses could sponsor a wheel to go up at Christmas. It was decided that this idea should be put on hold for now as there were many projects that still need completing this year.

Fundraising Ideas

AW reminded everyone that part of the aims of The CoT was to arrange social evenings for members as well as raise money for The CoT and perhaps something could be arranged for September or October. The Garden Open Scheme could possibly be an opportunity for a 'cheese and wine' evening or maybe Kinsham Court could be utilised as a venue for another event. AW agreed to speak to Mrs Collins about her garden and JTE agreed to speak to Mr and Mrs Wood with possible dates of the 14th, 21st or 28th September set aside. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Adopt a Site Update

See matters arising. CM to devise a spreadsheet for a rota system.

Carnival Window Displays

CM queried if everyone had received a letter about dressing the window for the Carnival and AW confirmed this had probably come from the Carnival Committee.

Membership Update

18 new members have joined this year so far with 12 existing members from last year who have not yet paid their subscriptions. CM agreed to chase up the existing members and will also continue to approach new potential members. AW suggested that the charity shops in Presteigne should be offered free membership but CK thought that they could be offered a discounted fee. CM agreed with AW and thought it was unfair to ask for a fee from non profit making businesses. Alternately these businesses could be asked to provide items for raffles instead.

AOB

CM raised that he felt there was a lack of communication between the general public and CoT and perhaps a newsletter or info sheet giving details of what is being done in the town and how this saves tax payers money, could be circulated. He asked if there is an information sheet or newsletter that goes out to inform local people of events in the town. All agreed this was a good idea and CK raised the idea of a bi-annual newsletter that could be distributed to the community. JTE suggested that CM writes something like a Chairman's newsletter twice yearly and to keep it simple and not too detailed.

Christmas Fair:

CM would like ideas for the Christmas Fair for the next meeting. AW asked the members if she should go ahead and book the Jester again to ensure that he is available for the date.

Flags:

The Oak would like a flag for the pub's flag holder, JTE said he had a spare that he would be happy to give to them.

Market Days:

This had been discussed in the past but it was agreed that this idea would be 'parked' for now.

Venues for meetings:

CM would like to approach other venues for meetings including The Legion, The Bowling Club and The Football Club. CF reminded everyone that the December meeting was traditionally used to wrap Christmas presents for the local children.

Next Meeting Date and Venue

Monday 11th August 2014 at The Dukes Public House, 7pm

Minutes approved by: Charlie Minskip