

# CHAGFORD AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in The Big Red Sofa

Present:

Sue Kendall	Chairman - Gidleigh Park Hotel
Andrew Parrott	Secretary - Round Ash Associates
Dawn Whitfield	Treasurer – The Big Red Sofa
Alan McGeorge	The Big Red Sofa
Chris Webber	Webber & Sons
Susan Powell	Susan @ Number Ten
Clare Stanton	Beechlands Holiday Cottages
Catherine Mount	Blacks Delicatessen
Colin Smith	Bowdens
Mike Elleston	and Words
Vicky Cairns	The Courtyard
Colin Davey	The Ring O'Bells
Fran Davey	The Ring O'Bells
Beulah Arlett	30 The Square
Yuli Somme	Bellacouche

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Jenny Grist	Homeopath
Phillip Parker	Old Forge Tea Rooms
Colin Kotz	Old Forge Tea Rooms
Tim Garratt	Rendells
Phil Fowler	Fowlers
Jonathan Richards	Best Cellars
Su Bowater	Helpful Holidays
Sue Price	Linden Spinney
Nigel Price	Linden Spinney

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 3rd October 2007 were confirmed.

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

### 4. Christmas 2007

The Chairman wished to record a thankyou to all those who had been involved in organising the lights and late night shopping and making it all happen especially Alan and Dawn, Chris Webber, Andrew Parrott, Helpful Holidays, Chagford Primary School, The Gidleigh Park gardeners for collecting the trees, Mike Elleston, Colin Smith and Martin Swift. Thanks were also expressed to Dennis Wannell for use of his electricity for the lighting on The Market House.

Following some discussion the general consensus was that the two late night shopping nights weren't as successful as expected. One reason for this was that there were probably too many other events taking place at that time of year so it was decided that the format should revert to one night this year.

**Resolved: Late Night shopping to be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 with many of the shops also opening on Sundays on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

**Resolved: Clare Stanton to send an entry to the bulletin thanking everyone who supported the late night shopping evenings.**

**Resolved: A sub committee to be formed to organise this years Christmas events.**

**It was also agreed that the usual donations be made to Hatherleigh Band and the Primary School band.**

Finally the Chairman asked if all those involved in the organisation of the Christmas lights and late night shopping would write down a list of things that have to be done as an aid for this years organising committee.

## **5. Gas Main Repair**

It was reported that a Mr Ray Perry of RM Perry Ltd was handling all compensation claims and that they needed to see three years worth of accounts in order for any compensation to be paid.

Several members suggested that the Association might be able to write on behalf of all members.

**Resolved: Secretary to email all members with contact details of the claims handlers and urge them to claim.**

**Resolved: Secretary to send letter of thanks on behalf of the Business Association to Dennis Wilkinson thanking him for the use of the field.**

**Resolved: Chairman to speak to Robert Sampson (West Devon Borough Councillor for Chagford) to see if the Borough Council could use its influence to help get compensation for Chagford businesses.**

Following a general discussion about the gas main repair work it was felt that the engineering company did a good job in getting the work done as quickly as possible with minimum disruption but perhaps the Business Association could have done more to encourage local people to use the shops whilst the town was effectively closed.

## **6. 2008**

**A discussion about the aims of the Business Association for 2008 resulted in the following actions.**

The Association should work on its corporate image and redesign the current logo and letterheads and have a Mission Statement.

**Resolved: Chairman to work on the Mission Statement. Secretary to email current logo to Colin at the Ring O'Bells for his barman (also a graphic designer) to work on.**

More use should be made of the local press and the Business Association should take adverts in publications such as Devon Life, Devon Today and Exeter Living.

**Resolved: Mike Elleston to write a 'Chagford is open for business again' press release for Western Morning News and or Okehampton Times. Susan Powell to be the Associations' contact with Devon Today, Dawn Whitfield for Devon Life and Sue Kendall for Exeter Living.**

## **7. A – Z directory**

It was generally agreed that there was a need to get some cheaper quotes for the A-Z directory. From these quotes, the optimum number of pages could be worked out.

**Resolved: Mike Elleston to investigate.**

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

**Resolved: Sue Kendall to confirm dates for all meetings in 2008.**

## **9. Any other Business**

Tinners Fair.

The Business Association had received a letter from the Tinners Fair Committee asking for their support and cooperation.

**Resolved: A sub committee of Andrew Parrott, Chris Webber and Mike Elleston to meet with representatives of the Tinners Fair to find out more about their plans and to discuss ways in which the Business Association could help.**

Thanks were expressed to Alan and Dawn at The Big Red Sofa for their hospitality.