

CHAGFORD AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held on
Thursday 6th September 2007
at The Ring O'Bells

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
Amanda Clarkson	Vanilla
Phillip Parker	Old Forge Tea Rooms
Colin Kotz	Old Forge Tea Rooms
Susan Powell	Susan @ Number Ten
John Holmes	J.T Designs – Jewellers
Sarah Holmes	J.T Designs – Jewellers
Linda Lemieux	Wood and Rush
David Turnbull	Design Centric Ltd
Martin Swift	Sallys Newsagents
Catherine Mount	Blacks Delicatessen
Colin Davey	The Ring O'Bells
Fran Davey	The Ring O'Bells

1. Apologies for Absence

Kevin Ginsberg	Miniature Pony Centre
Tim Garratt	Rendells
Clare Stanton	Beechlands Holiday Cottages
Phil Fowler	Fowlers
Jonathan Richards	Best Cellars
Su Bowater	Helpful Holidays
Jenny Hole	Chagford Galleries
Sue Price	Linden Spinney
Chris Webber	Webber & Sons
John Wood	The Dartmoor Auctioneer

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 12th July 2007 were confirmed.

3. Matters arising

A-Z Members Directory

The Chairman reported that there had been a good response to the insert in the Parish Magazine with 5 or 6 new members since it was published. It was still felt though that there should be another membership push before the publication of the directory.

Resolved: The Secretary to email members with a list of all paid up members for this year.

The Chairman to divide up the list of advertisers to the Parish Magazine and circulate to members who would ring all those on the list who weren't members.

The meeting also felt that the directory should not just be a folded and stapled A4 sheet but should perhaps have a glossy cover, a list of essential telephone numbers, a bit of background on the Association and a membership application form at the back.

Resolved: David Turnbull from Design Centric to do a spec for printers and get some idea of costs.

Date of publication planned for January 2008.

4. Christmas 2007

It was suggested that this year it might be an idea to have two late night shopping evenings with the entertainment split between the two. Other ideas were to have more going on in the lower part of town and possibly a craft or farmers market in Endecott House on one of the evenings. The usual participants – the Bellringers, the school band, Chagford Singers and Beatroute would be invited but the pubs would also be encouraged to provide some entertainment for later in the evening.

The Association would seek to get editorial coverage in magazines such as Devon Today and Devon Life as well as the Western Morning News and other local newspapers. Spotlight and Westcountry TV would also be invited.

Resolved: The Christmas Lights would be put up on Sunday 25th November or in the event of extreme weather Sunday 2nd December.

The suggested dates for Late Night Shopping were Thursday 6th December and Tuesday 11th subject to checking there were no clashes with events in nearby towns.

Alan from The Big Red Sofa would find out about prices for magazine editorial. Linda Lemieux agreed to organise another leaflet (sent to all parishioners) along the lines of the one produced last year.

5. Meeting with Parish Council

The Chairman and Secretary reported back from a meeting with representatives of the Parish Council. At the meeting the representatives suggested that the Council would pay for trees and lights on the Market House and organise public liability insurance. In addition there was a request from Highways that signage or street furniture that was blocking the footpaths should be removed. It was pointed out that enforcement could result if this was not done.

6. The Future

The Chairman stated that the aim of the Association should be to ensure the future prosperity of the town. This would only be achieved by attracting more visitors and encouraging them to return time and again. The Association alone could not do this but would have to work closely with the Parish Council and the local authorities.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Wednesday 3rd October at the Old Forge Tea Rooms.

8. Any other Business

There was a request from the Jubilee Hall that representatives of the Business Association attend a Trustees meeting to express the views of the Association on the future of the hall. It was felt that as this issue hadn't been discussed at any meetings that it would be better for a representative of the Jubilee Hall to come to the next Business Association to give members some background and outline the current thinking of Trustees.

Resolved: Invite someone from the Jubilee Hall to attend the next meeting.

The Secretary summarised a mailing received from the DTA regarding an offer for members to be included in The Dartmoor Directory.

Resolved: The Secretary to circulate details.

Thanks were expressed to Colin and Fran at The Ring O'Bells for the use of the meeting room.