

CHEPSTOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of General Meeting

Thursday 12th May 2011, 6.00pm at The Beaufort Hotel

PRESENT:

Members:

Sian Jones - VicePresident
Griff Rogers
Andrew & Judy Griffith
Cllr Paul Rutter
Cllr Jacqui Sullivan
Steve Sullivan
Brian Colley-Priest

Guests:

David Cummings
Lucy Scott
Jim Jenkins
Ben Pugh
Mark Taylor
Alyson Hunt
Cllr David Dovey

- 1. Apologies;** Melanie Phillips, Richard Cobourne, Peter Traynor, Martin Firman, Katie Burton, Dee Griffith, Michelle Dalley.
- 2. Minutes** The minutes of meeting held on 7th April 2011 had been circulated and approved by Griff Rogers and Paul Rutter
- 3. Introduction to New Members and Guests.** Sian welcomed new members and guests to the meeting.
- 4. Matters Arising** Sian reported that the Chamber had still not received the outcome of the Car Park consultation. Jacqui advised that it would not be going to cabinet this month. Paul reported that Chepstow Town Council had not formally been consulted about Car Park charges.
- 5. Marketing Update.** Griff reported that there was a huge list of potential activities put forward and that a sub-group had been formed to take some of these ideas forward for this year. Examples were to go out to schools and offering them space to perform in Beaufort Square, offering face painting for children, have the Town Band perform in Beaufort Square. Further ideas would be used in the longer term. The power supply in Beaufort Square was now working again.
- 6. Presentation. The Art and Science of Personal Success** - Andrew Griffith outlined things that we need to consider in achieving our goal. From using available resources, considering what we need to change and what barriers we impose to stop us achieving our goal, and the importance of communication styles. Sian thanked Andrew for his interesting presentation.
- 7. South Wales Affiliation Membership Facts.** David Cummings explained that South Wales Chamber was an amalgamation of Newport, South Wales and West Wales Chambers of which he was an ambassador for the Monmouthshire area. Chepstow is affiliated to SW Chamber and as such Chepstow Chamber members are entitled to various discounts on a range of business services (a list of these had been circulated prior to the meeting). He explained that to get the discounts they would need to book through Chepstow Chamber. A list of these benefits and of events is available on South Wales website www.southwaleschamber.co.uk . Nikki to send members a link to the events page.
- 8. Back 2 Business Week.** This would be taking place over 4 days commencing 6th June The first day launch would be at Chepstow Racecourse with the following three days held at Monmouth, Caldicot and Abergavenny. David Cummings explained that Chairs from Monmouth, Chepstow & Abergavenny had met with Kellie Bierne from MCC to discuss this event, but very few details were available as yet, which gave the Chambers and its members very little time to organise themselves. Sian asked, in Melanie's absence, if members agreed to take up the offer of a stand at the launch event at the Racecourse. This was agreed. Jacqui, Andrew and Judy agreed to assist on the stand. Further details would be distributed regarding the event as more details were made available.
- 9. A.O.B.**
 - **Smart Water Security** Abergavenny and Monmouth are becoming Smart Water towns. There will be a launch at the Monmouth Chamber meeting on 17th April for those interested in coming along to find out more. Smart Water is the new security liquid for businesses and households. For more information on the benefits of becoming a smart water town visit <http://www.smartwater.com> .
 - **Best of Chepstow Event** Nikki reminded the meeting that The Best of Chepstow was holding an event at Chepstow Racecourse on the evening of 18th May. There were still some spaces available and if anyone was interested to contact Martin Firman.

- On behalf of the Chamber, Griff thanked Sian for chairing the meeting in the absence of the President and offered the Chamber's best wishes on her and her future husband's forthcoming marriage on 28th May

Meeting closed 19.30

Next Meeting Thursday 2nd June