

CHEPSTOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of General Meeting

Thursday 3rd December 2009, 6.00pm at The Beaufort Hotel

PRESENT:

Members:

Griff Rogers – President
Melanie Phillips – Vice President
Andrew & Judy Griffith
Dee Griffith
Jacqui & Steve Sullivan
Paul Rutter
Ned Heywood
Brian Colley-Priest

Guests

David Groves

1. **Apologies;** David Davies MP, Paul Evans, Sian Jones.
2. **Minutes of October 09 Meeting:** The minutes of meeting held on 5th October 2009 had been circulated and approved by Brian Colley-Priest and Melanie Phillips.
3. **Matters arising:** None
4. **Marketing Update: Jacqui reported to the group:**
 - 4.1. **'Hoggin the Bridge'** further meetings with Bridgwater Harley Davidson's Chapter were taking place. Jacqui had agreed to take on the organisation for the Chepstow side of the event next year and the Chapter would be meeting in January to consider holding the event next year. Risk assessments would need to be submitted by February. £1200 profit had been made this year.
 - 4.2. **The Chepstow Showcase.** This had been a successful event with 33 businesses taking part, and a small profit had been made. It was hoped to hold the event again next year. Griff congratulated Dee and Jacqui on their organisation of the event. Andrew suggested that more photos of the event should be put on the website.
 - 4.3. **High Street Closures.** A survey of shoppers in the town had been performed and the results would be available at the next marketing meeting. In January a survey of High Street traders would be undertaken. Andrew commented that despite asking for the road closure signs to be altered this had still not been done. He felt strongly that without the addition of 'closed to traffic' many potential shoppers presumed that the shops were also closed and that traders were losing out on sales. Jacqui reported that there was a high cost involved in changing the signs. Andrew suggested that MCC should not charge for the alteration as it was their error. This will be brought up at the next Marketing meeting
 - 4.4. **Chepstow Guide Progress.** There had been two errors in the events dairy of the guide, one in the date of the remembrance service and one for the date of the Mari Lwyd. The advert for the Mari Lwyd had however given the correct date.
 - 4.5. **Christmas Lights Switch On and Creative Cultivators Market:** Had been successful.
5. **Tall Ships Race led by Andrew Griffith. A team building exercise**

Andrew divided the members into two groups and gave them the task to build the tallest freestanding ships mast possible with the pieces of wood provided. Each team had a planning and preparation phase in which they had the opportunity to develop their plan and to estimate how tall their mast would be followed by a building phase and final measurement. The heights of both masts were the same. Andrew kindly presented both teams with a prize and also a certificate of Achievement. Griff thanked Andrew for organising the race. Andrew thanked Howard Jones (in his absence) for the loan of the game to the Chamber for the evening and explained that should anyone be interested in advice on business personnel matters he could provide Howard's contact details.
6. **A.O.B**
 - 6.1. Ned informed the meeting of the forthcoming events at the Drill Hall
 - 6.2. Paul Rutter reported that the Town Council had agreed a substantial amount for the Marketing Group and that this group should ensure that the budget was spent.
 - 6.3. Ned suggested that the results of the marketing survey recently undertaken should be presented to a Town Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 19.05

Date of next meeting 4th February 2009