

CHEPSTOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of General Meeting

Thursday 1st May 2014, 6.00pm at The Beaufort Hotel, Regency Room

PRESENT:

Members:

Andrew Griffith (AG) President
Griff Rogers (GR)
Judy Griffith (JG)
Julie Le Peltier (JLP)
Marc Le Peltier (MLP)

Nikki Colley- Priest (NJCP)- Secretary

Guests:

Cllr David Dovey (DD) – MCC
Sandra Bushell (SB) - Town Clerk

- 1. Apologies** Carole Heritage, Dee Griffith, Ben Pugh, Richard Cobourne, Nikola Greening
- 2. Approval of Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on April 3rd 2014 were taken as read and adopted following a proposal by GR seconded by MLP.
- 3. Matters Arising-** Rotary Club Breakfast, SB reported that there were not that many attendees, however it gave people the opportunity to network over breakfast and ended promptly at 8.30am. JLP said she would attend the next breakfast meeting and would take some membership brochures with her.
- 4. Managing Your Time** This was postponed until a later date.
- 5. Increasing Footfall in Chepstow-Your Ideas for Street Markets and other innovations.** AG commented that this Street Market on 22nd April had been a success. There were plenty of people in attendance and there was a good atmosphere in the Town. SB reported that there were 2 stalls that didn't turn up due to chiller cabinets not arriving on time and it was hoped that they would attend next time. The stall holders were being charged £10 + vat, this however did not cover the cost of erecting the stalls at present but it was hoped in future costs would be covered. It was not the aim to make a profit on the Street Market, the aim being to increase the footfall in the town.
The next Street Market would be on 24th May when there would be a nautical theme. It was hoped to have music in front of the Beaufort Hotel and also outside the White Lion. It was hoped to have a best dressed Pirate competition.
SB asked the Chamber to encourage more retailers to take part. AG suggested organising a best dressed window competition with a prize draw for entrants. He also suggested A'A best smile in Chepstow' campaign, although this would take a while to set up. MLP suggested that more signage be put up on the approach roads to Chepstow. GR explained that these were trunk roads and any signs would be removed by Highways authorities. It was suggested that a banner be put up outside Barclays promoting the event. An issue had arisen regarding the cost of licences for the stalls. SB was in discussion with MCC regarding this. June Street Market would include a Flea Market all around the town.
- 6. Marketing Report** GR reported that there were plans to hold a Rock concert at the Palmer Centre between 26th- 28th Sept. There were plans to organise a 'Sing along with Tom' karaoke event on the Saturday following the Friday Tom Jones Concert at the Racecourse. This was planned to take place between 11am – 3.00pm. The Racecourse manager had agreed to mail out marketing literature along with discount vouchers from Chepstow retailers. SB to send details of the racecourse manager so he could be invited to the 'Meet the Members' networking event on 5th June.

The Walkers are Welcome walking festival had been a success and the singing in Beaufort Square had drawn quite a crowd of onlookers.

The canopy in the Castle designed by Architen Landrell had won an International outstanding achievement award.

AG explained that Griff, at present, was the only Chamber representative on the Marketing Group and asked for another volunteer to join the group as a Chamber representative. It was agreed that MLP would take on this role.

7. **Treasurers report.** In MP absence AG reported that the closing balance on 28th March was £1034.(see attached) Although since then the Chamber should have had a refund from South Wales Chamber for the direct debit that was withdrawn in error .

8. **A.O.B.**

- **Next Meeting June 5th** MLP had arranged for Still Marketing to be the guest speaker at the next meeting. It was agreed to that 'Destination Chepstow' be the title of the talk. NJCP was awaiting confirmation of venue from Alison Hunt
- **Future meeting** GR suggested that the Chamber consider adopting the same format as Monmouth Chamber which seems to be successful and have quarterly meetings. There would need to be a full agenda with enough variety. The gap between meetings would be filled with regular news letters to inform members of relevant news what the executive had been doing on their behalf. It was agreed to discuss this at the next exec meeting

Meeting closed at 19.30

Date of next meeting Thursday 5th June

Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

Financial Report to Members May 1st 2014

Opening Balance as at 20 th September 2013		£2598
Income	Membership	£365
	Chepstow marketing	£360
Total		£725
Outgoing	Tax	£156
	Secretary	£624
	South Wales Chamber	£229.13
	Misc	£25
Total		£1034.13
Loss		£309
Closing Balance as at 28 th March 2014		