

Minutes of the Committee Meeting 14TH AUGUST 2014

Present: President – James Edgar (Ferndown Photography)
Vice President - John Worsfold (Pedals)
Secretary - Julie Hardman (Planit)
Treasurer – Tony Brown (Y not finance)
Marketing – Banu Biret. (Trash Media)
Membership – Stuart Fleetham (Xerocad)
Ben Pulford (M4D)
Phil Fletcher (Ferndown Florists)
Jo Gracie – Lifestyle kitchens

Apologies Sue Cornell (Jolliffes)

DRAFT ONLY
Welcome and apologies

James opened the meeting and welcomed the committee members.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Previous minutes from 7TH July were agreed and signed by James.

President's Report

James updated the committee on the latest developments regarding holding weekly markets in Penny's Walk. There is still a hold up related to red tape and sorting out the new leasehold.

There would be a meeting with PACT (Police and Communities together) on 26th September regarding security matters in and around the town.

In addition, James had spoken to UK Farmers Markets in Wiltshire and Hampshire. The Hampshire markets were already being run in Ringwood and Ferndown was deemed too close to that area. There may be some interest from Wiltshire and it was suggested running a food festival as a start.

ACTION – James to investigate running a food festival.

Treasurer's report

The overall balance on the account was £5105.16. This included £907.20 allocated to the pram race and £1160.00 for the Christmas lights leaving a net balance of £3037.16.

The committee would have to decide shortly whether to allocate some money towards the Xmas lights fund or another charitable event.

During the month £40 had been received from Forest Inn (renewal) and £40 from Tesco (new member)

ACTION – members to determine where excess funds should be spent

Membership Secretary

Stuart had been very busy creating, printing and sending out all of the membership packs for the year 2014/2015. Stuart felt that the committee should be planning ahead for next years' membership pack and what items to be included.

Stuart had visited potential members including Alan and Bath (who were a bit confused) and Costa Coffee.

The best news of the evening was that Stuart had managed to secure membership from Tesco's. During the talks with their management they had given their support of the Chamber's work and want to join in the efforts of working to improve Ferndown. Stuart reported they have now offered to donate mince pies for the Xmas lights event and will donate a hamper for the Quiz night on 26th September. They would be willing to donate prizes for all our future events and in addition have agreed to allow the FCOC to use their foyer outside the shop for fund raising.

Stuart had also received training to enable him to update the web site when new members had joined.

The rest of the committee congratulated Stuart on his hard work and great success in persuading Tesco's to join.

ACTION – Stuart to prepare costings for next year's full membership pack.

- Members to continue to contribute 'contents' for the pack

Any Other Business

Communications

Web Site

Ben reported that recent news items such as the M&S proposal to open a shop in Ferndown had provoked a good response from the local public with people leaving comments on the site blog.

The French market held at end of July had also received good feedback.

However, more content was needed for example the Quiz night and more pictures for the gallery..

The site would continue to evolve continually with monthly events.

Police notices needed to be added as and when they were released.

Events

Quiz Night

Phil had met with Andrew, the new manager of the Barrington and had decided to 'give it another go' with regards to running another Quiz night there. Andrew had promised to have 3 people behind the bar on the night thus hopefully avoiding the problems of the last quiz night of lack of service at the bar. It had been agreed that the food on the night would be curry or ploughman's option.

Stuart had prepared a flyer A5 size and a poster for the display cabinet. The aim was to get 150 people to buy tickets. The event would start at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Raffle prizes are required from members and local businesses.

ACTION – FCOC to give out Quiz leaflets and advertise for raffle prizes.

Golf Day

Phil had been organising a golf day and was currently assessing various venues including Crane Valley, Canford Magna, Dudsbury and Ferndown. In addition to the golfing day there would be a buffet (to include partners) and auction in the evening. It was proposed to run the event on first Friday of June 2015. Members would be able to sponsor a hole starting at £50 for 2nd to 17th, and £100 for 1st hole and 18th.

Phil would like to run the event with some of the money raised going towards a local Ferndown based charity.

Stuart would work on and provide banners.

**ACTION – Phil to finalise location for Golf Day
- Stuart to design and prepare banners**

Xmas Lights

Tony brought along the two designs which had been chosen for the new lights for Ringwood Road, and members were asked which one they preferred. Maria the Assistant Town Clerk had been liaising with Southern Electric concerning the suitability of the lampposts for the lights along Ringwood road. Approval from Ferndown Council is expected soon. These lights would run from Tesco's to the fire station (7 lights in total costing £4k).

There would be no light on the lampposts along Victoria Road as these lampposts are not suitable. Attention would be focused on the trees instead.

In addition, £7k would be spent on 'rope lights' outside the library

ACTION: John, Jo, (Tony), Ben and Banu to run Xmas sub committee to coordinate lights event.

AOB

Feedback from French Market

James reported that the people running the market were disappointed ie town was not busy enough. The town itself was busier than normal however not enough for the French market to return. Julie thought that some goods such as the cheese stall was excellent however some of the stalls eg the cakes were very expensive.

Stuart thought the more generic stalls were required. Tony thought that more cheese and wine stalls would do better. Jo thought that stalls selling pickles and chutneys would go down well.

Phil commented that he had feedback from customers who didn't realise the market was on.

James agreed but it was a last minute event which had been switched from Ringwood.

Business Awards

John and Ben are still working on this; the main question being 'is Ferndown ready for this?'

Ferndown in Bloom

Julie had been asked to support Shirley and judge this year's FIB business entrants. Decisions had been made and passed to the FIB committee for announcement. The photographic completion had been extended until September.

The next meeting would be on Tuesday 2nd SEPTEMBER 2014; to be held at the Barrington, starting at 5.15pm.

Signed

Dated