

Minutes of Meeting of Chamber of Trade held 9/1/17

Radnorshire Arms at 7pm.

Attendees: James Tennant-Eyles, David Tennant-Eyles, Marian Hardiman, Peter Mace, Wendy Toomey.

Guest: Richard Studer.

1. Apologies. Lysette Phillips, Rory Bennett and Charlotte Dobson, Colin Felgate, Graham Harkness.
2. Minutes of the last meeting on the 9/5/16 - approved without alteration.
3. Matters Arising – none.
4. Treasurer's report – Balance at Bank on the 3/1/16 was £6968.49. There had been a number of payments and receipts since the last meeting. A list was provided for inspection by members. It was noted that part of the bank balance was due to receipt of £2065 from the Awards for All Big Lottery grant. It was also noted that the cost of the new lights and installation, a figure of some £2300, had not yet been paid.
5. The Judges Lottery Tour and the Queen's Street Party - both been very successful and the former realised a surplus of £161.73, and the latter a cost £792.35, (plus £500, the cost of medals paid directly by Town Council).
6. The Christmas Fair - had been extremely successful. A letter to the Chamber from the Town Council was read out, complimenting all involved for all their efforts, and thanking the Chamber for putting on the event. The cost of the event including expenses noted at the date of the meeting was £556.38, very much in line with previous Fairs. There was extensive discussion about the next Fair and a number of ideas were noted.
 - a) That consideration be given to moving the Fair to a new venue, perhaps Broad Street or the Churchyard.
 - b) That significant improvements are required in the management of the electricity supplies from a health and safety point of view.
 - c) That consideration should be given to the basis on which stalls were invited to take part in the Fair. Should they be restricted to local businesses only?
 - d) That consideration should be given to inviting all the shops to have a stall.
7. The Christmas Lights - had been a great success and many compliments had been received. It was noted that the lights are now supplied and installed by a specialist contractor. Also noted that the Town Council had taken over responsibility for the lights as this enabled significant cost savings on VAT and insurance, but that the cost itself is still borne by the Chamber of Trade, whilst they have sufficient income from the Recycling. Although the new lights belong to the Town Council, the contractor would store them once he had taken them down at his own premises. They would be tested before storage and tested again before reinstallation. It was agreed that next year they could be extended as far as the garage thus encompassing the whole of the "trading area" of the Town.
8. The Town Council Grant for 2017/18 - for the Lights and Fair was discussed and it was agreed that in view of the recycling income, of some £2000 per annum that it was unreasonable to ask for a grant while this income source continues. It was felt that as the

recycling income is gained as a result of the efforts of volunteers working for the general good of the community that it is entirely appropriate that the income resulting from those efforts should be spent for the benefit of the whole community, in providing the Lights and the Fair.

9. A grant from Awards for All had been successfully applied for by the ex-chair in respect of the Queen's Birthday Street Party, with a concept of making the event inclusive to all in the community specifically including those from abroad. Unfortunately this grant was awarded too late to be applied to the Queen's Birthday Street Party. JTE had been in touch with AfA and had been advised that the funds could be applied to another event if the Chamber could come up with an event that matched the criteria. Members agreed to bring ideas to the next meeting, but if nothing ensued that the money should be returned to the AfA.
10. The emails that had been sent to Powys County Council in October in respect of the hot food van on the bypass were discussed at length. It was clear that no malice had been intended towards the trader, but the matter had been badly handled and there had been no proper membership approval of the emails before sending. It was decided that a letter of apology should be sent to the trader and JTE agreed to draft one for approval by email circulation to all members.
11. Any other business – none.

Meeting ended 9.30.