

Presteigne & Norton Chamber of Trade

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 10th April 2017 – held at The Duck's Nest

Present:

James Tennant-Eyles (JTE) Wendy Toomey (WT) Colin Felgate

(CF) Charlie Kingham (CK), Leon Abecasis (LA), Peter Mace (PM), Kevin Lole (KL)

Ann Wake (AW), David Tennant-Eyles (DTE)

Secretary Liz Joyce (LJ)

Apologies:

Marion Hardman

Graham Harkness

Minutes of AGM 2016

Minutes read and agreed as a true and accurate record.

Chairman's Report to 2017 AGM

- This has been a busy year for the Chamber with a number of events organised. A networking event at the Judges Lodgings, an event for the community in the form of the Queens Street Party, and of course the Christmas Fair which is not only a much enjoyed by the community, but is also an opportunity for the shops to join in and promoted themselves. There has also been the ongoing management of the recycling site and responses made to the LDP process.
- In recent years, the Chamber of Trade has struggled to retain members. However, I am pleased to be able to report that this year, the membership increased from an all-time low in the previous year of 8 members to 18 in the current year, although still nowhere near the figure of about 40 enjoyed in earlier years.
- In May there was a very successful event at the Judges Lodging attended by about 40 guests. We were given a fascinating conducted tour of the building, in groups lead by Dave Fraser and Gabby Rivers. Then we were treated to an excellent candlelit buffet dinner provided by Lorna. The event which was intended as a networking opportunity made a small surplus of some £162.

- In June came the Queens Street Party, when the High Street was packed from end to end with attendees. Entertainment was provided by Malabaristas and Scrappies. The Chamber provided every child at the Primary School with a commemorative medal. The Event cost some £1292, of which £500 was for the medals which were paid for by the Town Council as part of their annual grant.
- In anticipation of the Queens Street Party Ann Wake organised a Clean for the Queen Event. About thirty volunteers were involved including a large group from John Beddoes. About thirty sacks of rubbish were collected from the bypass and High Street. Powys County Council donated bags, and the local street cleaners time and vehicle. Keep Wales tidy supplied safety signs, and litter picking tools.
- Ann Wake attempted to get an Award for All grant for the Queens Street Party, but at a very late stage was told that they would not fund this kind of event. Never daunted Ann re jiggged the application to meet the required criteria and was successful in obtaining a grant for £2065. These funds have not been used because they arrived too late, but remain in the Chambers bank account. If a suitable event that meets the criteria is not run before the end of June, the money will have to be returned.
- The Chamber has continued to run the recycling bring site on the bypass, under the able direction of Wendy Toomey, supported by volunteers. This brought £2405 into the Chamber during the year. The Recycling site has never been so consistently well looked after and I am sure we would like to express our gratitude to Wendy and her volunteers for all the hard work done, come rain or shine. I would suggest a letter of thanks is sent to all the volunteers.
- The annual visit by the Vintage Sports Car Club in October is always much enjoyed by all, and participants speak highly of the warm reception they experience in the town. Well done David Tennant-Eyles for putting up the welcome banner and the Charlie Kingham for attending the Sunday hill climb event to present the Judges Gavel.
- The Christmas lights saga was finally resolved during the year and after extensive negotiations it was decided to accept a refund of some £275 from the supplier. This was all they were prepared to offer, as non-standard transformers had been used on the lights that failed. The next step would have been to instruct solicitors and this was not considered worthwhile. Following receipt of this refund the net cost of the lights to the Chamber was £1856, which has been written off in the accounts.
- However, the saga had a happy ending as it was decided to install new lights and these have been very positively received by the community with many comments of approval made. A contractor was used and the

responsibility for the lights has been passed to the Town Council as this provided substantial savings in VAT and insurance. For the time being it is felt the Chamber will continue to fund the lights, whilst it has the income from the recycling.

- The Christmas Fair took place in early December and was a resounding success, with more stalls than ever before, and consistent entertainments throughout the event. The High Street was packed from end to end and Father Christmas was busy throughout. Much thanks is due to all our High Street stores who contributed to the event with window displays and late opening. Finally, very special thanks must be given to David Tennant-Eyles for stepping in at a very late stage to lead on the event, supported by many other volunteers, working very hard to make it a record success.
- In January, under the very able guidance of Wendy Toomey the Chamber approved and submitted a written response to the Local Development Plan in respect of the Kaye's site.
- Unfortunately, due to family circumstances Ann Wake had to step down as Chair in the autumn. I want to take this opportunity to express the strongest possible thanks to Ann from the Chamber. Throughout her almost three years as chair she has worked incessantly in support of the Chambers objectives, she has instigated a series of very successful events and activities, and lead on them. Very few people who have not been closely involved will understand the enormous and sustained efforts that Ann has expended for the Chamber. I know I speak for all members in expressing our greatest possible thanks for her many years of dedicated support.

James Tennant-Eyles, acting Chair. 10th April 2017.

Treasurers report:

JTE provided copies of the annual accounts, attached herewith. Bank balance at year end was £4626.64 current account and £227.17 savings account. Bank balance at date of meeting was £5146.12 due to receipt of next recycling payment.

The new lights this year and their installation was the largest expenditure, and was paid for with COT money, but they and the responsibility to erect them has been passed to the Town Council. They are now installed by a contractor, who retains them during the year in safe storage and inspects and tests them before installation each year.

The Christmas Fair incurred very similar expenditures to previous years. An extra item was the purchase of some large storage bins to properly store the Fair equipment from one year to the next.

The Bring Site Recycling continues to provide a good income.

WT requested that the Bring Site Volunteers are informed of how much income the Bring Site has made for the COT. JTE agreed to send a letter to all the volunteers to let them know how much they have raised and to recognise their valued contribution.

JTE will be getting an accountant to approve and verify the COT accounts for the first time. (This was done and the verification letter circulated to all present at the meeting within a week)

Income from Flamenco Evening continues to be recorded as a liability until a decision has been reached as to how it will be used as it was originally raised for purchase of market stalls.

Discussion on the Future of the Chamber of Trade:

JTE read out the current COT Constitution and there was general agreement that the stated aims would still be relevant for any new organisation. However clearer objectives would be needed to clarify how these aims could be achieved.

Nominations for Committee:

The following positions on the Committee were nominated and seconded:

Chair – Leon Abecasis

Vice-Chair – Peter Mace

Social Media – David Tennant-Eyles

Treasurer – David Tennant-Eyles

Secretary – To be agreed

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.