

Meeting Presteigne & Norton Chamber of Trade and Commerce The Dukes Arms, Presteigne, Monday 11th August 2014

Present: James Tennant Eyles (JTE), , Wendy Toomey (WT), Charlie Minskip (Chair) (CM), Ann Wake (AW), , Colin Felgate (CF), , Charlie Kingham (CK), & Lysette Phillips (Secretary) (LP).

Apologies: Paul Taylor and Dale Gorman

Special Guest: Roger Williams MP

Roger Williams MP attended the meeting and spoke to the CoT about work he is doing to help small businesses in Wales and the issues they face. He also informed everyone about an opportunity to attend an Event in Llandrindod Wells which will be attended by Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business and if subscribed to, could enable a representative the chance to meet Vince Cable and raise issues faced by small businesses generally. It was agreed by all that this would be a good opportunity and CM and WT should attend to represent Presteigne.

Minutes of Meeting 4th July 2014

Minutes agreed.

Matters Arising

JTE has spoken to Mrs Wood of Kinsham Court about hosting a Cheese & Wine evening at her property and she is happy to go ahead with this. JTE thought a date after September would be better as time would be too short to organise, however all thought it would be nicer if the gardens could be appreciated too so if the event was hosted later, the weather would not be so good. Therefore Monday 8th September was agreed with a ticket price of £10 per person to cover food and wine and the remainder going to raise funds for CoT.

Also suggested was a visit to Knighton Observatory as a fund raiser and social evening for members and friends or partners. Knighton Observatory is involved in the Earth Watch project which is used to track asteroids. A future possible host for another visit could be Broadheath House.

JTE informed the committee that applicants of the proposed broiler unit in Presteigne had approached one of the members of The CoT to query why The CoT had put in an official objection to their planning application. All agreed that during a previous meeting, the committee had agreed **not** to become involved in this issue and not make a comment on the application. JTE stated clearly that he was totally unaware that a letter had been written to PCC planning department in the name of The CoT, objecting to this application for a broiler unit. He did agree that there may be items in the future that may require The CoT to take a position but in that event it would be appropriate to poll all members and take their views into consideration. Therefore JTE asked for a vote from those present to rewrite a letter to PCC Planning stating that The CoT do not support or object to this planning application from this point in time, effectively withdrawing the original objection. The vote was passed, 4 votes to 2.

Adopt a Site; WT brought a copy of the contract for this proposal for members to view as a decision needs to be made whether to go ahead with this as PCC are reviewing various recycling sites and may close those which are not performing. WT would like to set up a rota of volunteers but felt her own commitments would prohibit her from becoming too

involved in this project herself. Potential income from the recycling could be in the region of £2000 per annum, there is a working CCTV camera at the site and fly tipping would be dealt with by PCC. Any volunteer working on the site would need PPE and should allow 15 minutes per day (or 30 minutes if the site is very untidy) to clear up the area. Therefore 5 or 6 volunteers should be able to manage the site on a rota although AW felt that one person should lead on this project as a point of contact. It was agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Balance at previous meeting:	£806.88
Income from Month subs:	£20.00
Balance at 11 th August 2014:	£730.99

Christmas Lights

JTE was able to report that the first tranche of money from PCC has been received so The CoT is to go ahead with purchasing the Christmas lights for the High Street and Broad Street. However an issue has arisen with the supplier of the cables as he would not be able to supply stainless steel which all agreed would be a better option. Therefore another supplier would need to be sought. CK suggested that the current street flags should be removed for now as they are starting to look a little tired. A unanimous vote agreed to remove the flags for now and CM offered to store them in the Wine Bar cellar.

Presteigne Christmas Street Party (Llanandras Christmas Fair)

A suggested date was made of either Friday 5th December or Friday 12th December, depending on other organised events in the town which may clash. AW suggested a small group of volunteers would be needed to organise the event. The volunteers are: AW, WT, JTE and CM with AW leading the project.

A.O.B.

It was agreed that The CoT should fund the tickets for CM and WT to attend the event in Llandrindod Wells and that CM should be the representative to meet Vince Cable. A meeting will be held at The Wine Bar on Monday 18th August to discuss arrangements and what should be put forward.

Next meeting Date and Venue

Monday 1st September 2014 at The Legion, 7pm