



Sherborne Chamber of Trade & Commerce
Minutes of the Zoom Meeting: 1800hrs Monday 12th April 2021
(Public meeting)

Attendees: Keith Bawden – Chair, Jane Wood – President, Taff Martin – VC,
Nick Hunt – Treasurer, Lynda Martin – Secretary, Lauren Ottewill – Coordinator,
Tina Kerr & Bill Taylor - STC.

Apologies: Laura Hitchcock

1. Matter arising from previous minutes: – covered below.

2. Chairman's report: (KB) – Attended meeting with the Town Council, have requested extra signage etc, so the stenciling should have been done. There has been a big push on social media about the opening of the town again. CCTV – they are going to find out the actual costs. Will be investigated and put on the agenda. The Crime survey for all members will close soon. Will update us with the results at our next meeting. Lauren will send an email out to all members to remind them to fill it in. Shop windows – it would be good to either make use of the empty shops with 'pop-up' shops or put displays up in the windows. STC & Keith are going to find out who the landlords are and pursue this.

3. Treasurer's report: (NH) – The grant for the Christmas application etc came in on the 29th March for £4,000 from STC. The balance in the Nat West account is £18,484.34. Balance of the PayPal account, unknown at the moment as there is an issue with the quick-books connection but will have it for the next meeting.

4. Membership: (LO) – There are now 10 left to pay. Keith will send an email out as a final reminder, or they will be taken off membership list.

5. Marketing:

a. Quarterly Newsletter: – Keith has now written it ready to go out tomorrow. Going forward though Keith needs more help and input. Keith only received something from Jane! Any help to add things to it please.

b. Fiver Feast update: (JW) – the dates are 12th – 26th June. Waiting for a pack with more information in. This can then be sent out and business can then be involved in this, including the indies. An email can go out to all members to help push this, asking for a show of interest.

6. Action groups:

a. Police: – Keith – CCTV, waiting for the running costs and the feedback of the crime survey to be completed.

b. Tourism Forum: – Ian & Laura – Keith will ask for an update.

c. Market: – Lauren & Carl – Not present but Jane and Tina confirmed the market is going ahead this Sunday with about 130 stalls. It will be COVID safe with Marshalls.

d. Indies: – Jane & Tina – again, another meeting tomorrow. Keith suggested that in their AOB Jane or Tina could bring up that maybe the Chamber and Indies could have a meeting, to talk about ‘merging’ together.

7. Chamber Events:

a. Post-Covid, summer drinks: – Ian & Carl – Can you PLEASE update at our May meeting. Time is moving on and we need to have options and dates. Preferably a Wed or Thurs evening, in July. Chamber will put some money in. We will need to check what other events are on so we do not clash.

b. Breakfasts – Marketing West: - Keith – 15th April, breakfast meeting, in conjunction with the Chamber, so please sign up to it if you can. Its about funding, what funds are available to access etc.

c. Mind – Online event: In the evening, ‘courageous-conversation’. How you can approach and adapt your style of management for staff with mental health issues. The cost is £465.00. The chamber agreed to pay for this and the date, Keith will ask if 11th May is available. Free to our members and maybe charge non-members. Keith will find out if other chambers are offering this sort of thing before we talk about costs for non-members. Any other ideas, on courses or workshops we could hold, please let Keith know. Nick suggested we pick up on things that are in the public eye, topics that are in the news at the moment.

9. AOB:

a. Recruitment: Keith asked if Jane, Taff & Nick could get together with him to write a job description for Laurens’s replacement.

b. Committee Commitment – It was agreed to have a ‘three-strike’ system for members not turning up. Or indeed not even sending their apologies. We need to have more commitment especially on this executive committee, so ... from now on Keith will start issuing the ‘strikes’ after the third one, you will be taken off the committee.

The committee also agreed to keep an eye out for anyone interested in joining us!

- Playing on the high street event – Taff – Keith asked if there was any news on this. Taff said he is waiting until the end of the month, until after the first market etc. Will look at this again in May. Taff said it is something he can put together very quickly.
- Tina – Now has her highways license, along with others, for tables outside. Tina said she was very concerned for customers safety with the number of vehicles coming down the high street, AFTER the 12-noon closure. Vans are also reversing up the high street through the no entry sign. Tina has spoken to Steve Shields about this, and it will be mentioned at the next weeks council meeting. Bill Taylor said he will follow this up. Tina

will also speak to the police because someone needs to be there to enforce this. She will update Keith on this.

- Jane asked Bill if there was any news on the restart grants for businesses. On DDC last week, it says there will be more information, but there is nothing yet. Bill will chase that up too.

- Bill – STC -The police usually have a slot at their meetings so he will talk to them about the traffic issue in the high street.

Crime survey- should be interesting, and he will look forward to the report on that.

Police keep saying we are a very low town for crime.

CCTV- In talks with Lyme Regis, Dorchester & the new crime commissioner about up-to-date costs. This debate has been going on for too long, so trying to move this forward.

Empty shops – again, agree we need to look at this.

Tourism - for Sherborne, a new website, they are putting money into, the STC

Communications officer will keep us updated with that but all businesses and the Chamber to be involved. We are second in the queue for this.

New Mayor - Johnny Andrews will be standing down, because of the pandemic he did two years. Ann Hall will be taking over from May. The 3rd of June, business awards will be her first role as Mayor.

Meetings – there is an extended session at the town council meetings where it is open to all. If you would like to attend, just let Steve Shields know. Hopefully in May the meetings can go back to being in person.

Meeting closed at 6.55pm

Date of next meeting:

10th May 2021 – closed meeting