



Sherborne Chamber of Trade & Commerce
Minutes of the Zoom Meeting: 1800hrs Monday 15th March 2021
(Closed meeting)

Attendees: Keith Bawden – Chair, Jane Wood – President, Taff Martin – VC,
Lynda Martin – Secretary, Lauren Ottewill – Coordinator,
Steve Lee, Ian Crighton, Laura Hitchcock, Tina Kurr & Carl Hankey.

Apologies: Nick Hunt - Treasurer & Barnaby Baker

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

2. Chairman's report: (KB) –

Town Council – meeting with Bill Taylor on Wednesday, will discuss money for high street car parks, parking decision that does not benefit the town, CCTV etc.

3. Treasurer's report: (NH) – Nick not present so nothing to report.

4. Membership: (LO) – There are now 13 left to pay after an email reminding them that payment is due. There are two new business' wanting to join but sadly The Pear Tree does not wish to renew. Lauren will keep chasing those outstanding.

5. Marketing:

a. Quarterly Newsletter: – Keith has started the newsletter and has asked for anything positive to include on this, to give to him or Lauren & Ian by 21st March.

Ian will write a little message for an advert for the chamber. Taff said we could include this to go out on Abbey 104 too.

b. Website/social media update: (IC) – Ian has looked at the website. There are about 9 or 10 different tabs which needs to be looked at. They need to be about what we do as a chamber, so less tabs that are relevant. We need more on the 'job' side of things.

Ian will send an email to Keith of his recommendations. Lauren will investigate twitter and will also send the passwords/permissions needed to Ian, to allow him access to everything he needs.

c. Fiver Feast update: (JW) – Nothing to report yet.

6. Action groups:

a. Christmas: – Taff – nothing to report. There is a new lady for the market apparently.

b. Police: – Keith – CCTV, chased Gareth, he has a meeting this evening. Will be bringing this up at the meeting on Wednesday. Also asking where the money has gone that was set aside for this! Steve Lee said he has received something from the police/crime, like a questionnaire for him to fill out on behalf of Waitrose.

c. Tourism Forum: – Ian & Laura – Town council has a meeting about this. Dorset Council still looking into whether there is funding to be able to continue.

d. Market: – Lauren & Carl - it is still planning to go ahead, on 18th April. Chamber will promote this on the newsletter and face book etc.

e. Indies: – Jane & Tina – both had other meetings that clashed and have not received the minutes yet. There seems to be a few new faces though. Tina will chase up the minutes.

7. Chamber Events:

a. Post-Christmas Spring Drinks with canapes: – Keith – hopefully, 21st June is the end of lock down, so the chamber could do an event and supply drinks. The date all preferred is Friday 2nd July. Ian will contact The Eastbury and Jane, The Plume of Feathers for costings.

b. Breakfasts – Marketing West: - Keith – 15th April, breakfast meeting. Hopefully, someone like Charity Mind can come in and do something on mental health, business orientated which will be something different and will benefit the business' in the town.

8. Indies:

a. Update on current activities - ShopAppy – Jane - going well, still needs to be pushed within the town to make all aware of it and to encourage customers to use it.

9. AOB:

a. Recruitment: Keith – Lauren will be stepping down at the next AGM, so we will need to recruit someone. All agreed she will be sadly missed, she does so much.

b. Business Awards - The judging has been finalised but the ceremony will be in June now. Lots of people have made enquiries about this.

c. Taff suggested organising an event, involving Events Crew and Abbey 104 sometime shortly after 21st June, in celebration of the town opening again. Putting some bands on. Mo of the Crosskeys is very keen. There is the market on June 20th June, so maybe 26th or 27th June? It would be good to involve the Chamber and the Town Council.

d. Lynda asked about the yearly fee for the position of secretary and would like to donate it back to the Chamber, to go towards the costs of the drinks in July.

e. Steve said he would be leaving the Sherborne branch, his replacement – Jeremy- would like to step in his position instead. All agree for him to be Steve's replacement and thanked Steve for all his help and input over the years.

Date of next meeting:

9th April 2021 – Public meeting