



**Minutes of Committee Meeting  
Monday 2nd February 2015. 6pm - 8pm at The Lugger Inn**

**Present:** Chris Williams(CW) - Chair Debbie Andrews(DA) Carol Tambling(CT) Lynn Goold(LG)  
Guest Mel Coulton-Dyer of The Cornwall Chamber of Commerce(MCD)

**Apologies:** Gill Greenway, Mike Redmond, Chris Price

**Cornwall Chamber of Commerce:** MCD was present to give an introduction to the benefits of membership. CCC offers help and advice to Chambers of all sizes across Cornwall as well as individual businesses. They aim to be the 'Voice of Business' in Cornwall - supporting all businesses, not just Chamber members. CCC offers free affiliation where members can access details of events, meetings and discussions so they can then respond and take part as well as network with other members. Paid membership has further benefits as well as use of the CCC logo. Packages start from £245 and they are offering £50 discount at present.

MCD talked about the drive to get private business involved in decisions that were usually dominated by Public Sector. Objective One funding is expected by the end of the year and there is opportunity to take part in producing a Business Plan for Cornwall.

LG asked how CCC could help with Marketing and Events: Katie Wild of CCC can offer advice and contacts. Members can log into the CCC website to promote Fowey events, also through Social Media. Dave Halton of St Austell Bay Chamber was suggested as a useful contact. LG will contact and follow up regarding promoting the Christmas Market

MCD offered advice on the tendering options, how to gain sponsorship, resources available and also highlighted opportunities to network and attend events, member discounts between business's, business advice and information about available grants

CW said it made sense to join, particularly as it was free initially. Opportunity to pick up issues from other Chambers for mutual discussion/help. Fowey Chamber needs to be more active on Twitter to interact with CCC and other Chambers. Who is responsible for Twitter?

Fowey Chamber of Commerce will join via website, up to 6 members can log on and post news/messages.

**Finances:**

CP not present but had sent CW an email with details of finances

Profits since March 2014: Memberships £900, Tins £170, Mussel Fest £345, Christmas Trees £680 Grotto £400. (CT said she has not been repaid her expenses, CW asked her to forward receipts to CP, to be paid ASAP)

After sundry expenses the Chamber has a surplus of £3600 and expect to still be in surplus despite not taking membership fees this year. The Chamber discussed how to use the extra money, it was decided that some needed to be spent on improving lights, decorations and also contributing to

other events. LG and CT both felt the Chamber should keep a working surplus but also put a percentage back into the town - for instance to help the Town Council keep the toilets open longer or improve access. It would be an opportunity to work in partnership with Town Council and others, to mutual benefit. The committee agreed that they would come up with a list of 'Good Causes' of which each year, one would receive a minimum of 25% of the Chamber's surplus profits from events. It was agreed that the first beneficiary would be the Town Council, from the coming year's profits (previous profits to go back into the Chamber)

### **Christmas Market:**

LG has formed a Market Committee and met with Ian Owers, Ali Davies, Carol Tambling, Susanna Stables and Chris Price. LG said the help of Ian Owers would be invaluable due to all his previous experience with the Christmas Market. He is very practical and works well under clear guidance LG said that decisions needed to be made quickly, particularly regarding the date as Padstow would be taking applications at the end of the month,

The two viable options are the 5th/6th December with the usual Christmas Celebrations on the evening of the 4th or the 21st/22nd November with a separate festive event closer to Christmas. (Tides are too high to consider 28th/29th November) LG had sought opinions from the Chamber and there was general agreement that the December dates are best despite clashing with Padstow.

There could be opportunities to do joint marketing with Padstow. LG to look into this.

CW said the market had done well previously despite lack of advertising and clashing with Padstow. He thought splitting it into two events unwise.

It was agreed that it was important to work quickly to secure quality traders, also to improve the presentation and promotion of the market and to attract more traders by bringing costs down. LG said costs could be reduced drastically by not tendering out the market as a whole but to do it in house and perhaps tender out certain aspects. This would be discussed further once a date was in place.

Committee members present agreed 4th/5th/6th December. LG is going to contact Alan Dibb and Martin Billingsley ASAP to discuss and co-ordinate with. Details of tendering will be discussed and finalised shortly. LG has had some very good, professional advice and offers of help which she will pick up.

DA has a contact for Alex Heslop who may be able to help with staging, he designs awnings and backdrops for big events

CT said the Grotto can be in the Butter Market, freeing up space on Webb Street for smaller stalls CT suggested offering accommodation packages for the market weekend.

Chamber agreed that the budget would dictate what improvements could be made. Suggestions included improving the atmosphere of the marquee with better decoration, a merry go round, stalls or chalets down Fore Street to extend the market, more buskers/entertainment

Quorum to meet on Monday 16th February, 4pm The Lugger to finalise tendering. CW/CT/LG + 1 other

### **Food Fest:**

DA has formed committee with Mike Redmond, Glynn Wellington, Julian Davies, James Horrocks and James Strawbridge. Food Fest dates are confirmed as 19th/20th/21st June

The committee have met and discussed ways to improve and extend the Food Fest through the town. Suggestions:

Food competitions - Smoke off/ Bake off, more music, to include pubs as venues for music/events, stalls through the town, event at Readymoney Beach.

Suggested name for the event is The Big Gig and BBQ

DA said this was probably ambitious for this year and the focus would still be around Town Quay but were looking at getting Morris Dancer and other performers (LG has list of performers who approached Fowey Festival which may be available) There is a possibility of a gig race and for visitors to have a go in a gig.

CT said it was important to ensure fairness in stall distribution.

DA is going to finalise a name for the event and look into sponsorship

### **Social Events Calendar**

It has been agreed to host three social events and three educational events for current members each year. The first event will be Curry Club (a curry buffet) on Thursday 26th February at The Lugger, food will be provided with a paying bar

DA to contact all members and MR to promote via Twitter/Facebook

CT has offered to cater and CW has said Fowey Hall can help with that.

Evening to start with a very short talk about the Chamber's year ahead.

Clare Harris will also introduce the Digital High Street Skills programme which is in three parts and is being offered as the three educational events the Chamber will be running.

### **Actions:**

Has NB spoken to Steve Beresford about taking on the website and Twitter? CW to chase.

DA still to register as Data Controller

FCC to join CCC via website. CW?

LG to make contact with Katie Wild off CCC to help with market promotion

LG to contact Padstow about joint marketing

LG to contact Alan Dibb and Martin Billingsley

CW/CT/LG + 1 other to meet 16.2.15 to finalise tendering for Christmas Market.

DA to finalise name for Food Fest and look into sponsorship and performers

DA and MR to invite and promote Curry Club to members

### **No other Business**

**Meeting concluded at 8pm.**

**Next meeting Tuesday 3rd March 6pm at The Lugger**