



Fower Chamber of Commerce
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Tuesday 3rd March 2015 6pm The Lugger

Present: Chris Williams(CW) - Joint Chair, Mike Redmond(MR) - Joint Chair, Chris Price(CP) - Treasurer, Carol Tambling(CT), Nigel Brady(NB), Gill Greenway(GG), Sian Hill(SH), Karen Jane (KJ), Jo Greenway(JG) Justine Hambly (JH) – Secretary
Guests: Councillors Alexander and Finlay

Apologies: Debbie Andrews(DA), Lynn Goold(LG), John Berryman(JB), Eira Reed(ER), Carol Morris(CM)

Neighbourhood Plan: Councillors Alexander and Finlay attended to give an update on the Neighbourhood Plan for Fowey. The plan covers a 15 year span and is compiled using the views of local residents and the business community to influence local issues such as housing, education, healthcare and planning. It is now part of planning law that developers pay attention to the document. They have so far sent out questionnaires, held an exhibition in the Town Hall and met with the residents and businesses of Polkerris. They would like to work with the Chamber particularly regarding the business/commercial section of the plan and to become involved in local events to get a better insight into local issues. There is already concern about the number of business premises that are converting to residential use and the Chamber's feedback could be used in that part of the plan. The plan is to be completed within the year. The Chamber agreed to circulate a specific questionnaire to all its members and also to elect one member as point of contact regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. **KJ** has agreed to be the point of contact.

Christmas Market: **LG** was unable to attend but has emailed an update to members and included a copy of the tender document and minutes from the last market sub-committee meeting. (Contact **LG** if you want copies) The tender documents are out and at present there are two businesses and a local consortium who are interested. A sub-committee has been formed and responsibilities designated, all is progressing. **SH** said that Fowey River Crafts had not been so successful in Town Hall in the last couple of years and suggested the Chamber took that on from FRC, offering very low cost stalls for very small businesses, crafters etc. She is waiting to hear back from FRC as to whether they are happy with that. The Chamber are in favour. **SH** would also like to expand the lantern parade to include groups and organisations as well as individuals, offering prizes for different categories. **JG** will join Market sub-committee

Big Gig and BBQ: The name is confirmed as The Fowey River Big Gig and BBQ Weekend. Live acts are booked across the whole weekend and there is sponsorship in place from several local businesses as

well as donations from individuals. Music will finish by 10pm so pubs can benefit from the custom. The event will be family orientated, with activities for children in the Town Hall and Churchyard, there will be limited hot food stalls alongside local produce stalls. Also there will be an open mike event for local musicians, competitions, cookery demos and a fund-raising BBQ with James Strawbridge. The Fire Brigade and Gig Club are also to be involved. The event is being promoted through Facebook and Twitter and there are also newspaper and magazine articles in place. **NB** has offered to organise, transport and erect stage. **KJ** will join the sub-committee, The Galleon should be more involved, and in previous years has sponsored the Friday night band. **JG** will also join sub-committee

Membership/Socials: The first Curry Club was a success, with around 40 people attending, thank you to **CT** for hosting so well. There were some comments that people had not been told about it, the Chamber is working on communicating more efficiently with its members – updating contact lists and creating a new website with the Chamber news available to all. There is also now a monthly column in the Fowey News with all the latest from the Chamber. It is a work in progress to expand and include more members. There is more activity on Facebook/Twitter, **MR** asked if anyone else could contribute to updating, **JG** has agreed to do some.

The next Curry Club is on the 30th April - proposed venue the Safe Harbour (confirm with **CM**)

Confidentiality: The Chamber agrees that there is no reason why all members should not get copies of the minutes, their aim is to be clear and transparent in their activities. Confidential items can be attached separately to the members they concern. List of members contact details are not to be made available to other parties.

Any Other Business:

Kathy Redmond and Brian Greenway are to take an overall look at parking in the town to see where improvements can be made.

The Chamber are looking for a member (non-executive) to look at funding opportunities for the Chamber and also for local businesses. **SH** has some information she can provide.

KJ is on the Regatta Committee and will liase with them regarding working more closely. Graham Jane (Regatta Chair) retires next year with possible repercussions to the future of the Regatta. **KJ** stressed the importance of the input of the town as a whole to keep these events alive. It was agreed that the Chamber was making progress in encouraging this.

GG drew attention to the availability of Fowey Guides and how few people tapped into them. She was looking at the possibility of attaching boxes to the information boards where the guides could be available. The TIC could fill the Barclays Bank one, but would need to look at others being kept stocked. Fowey TIC holds them and they are available for anyone to come and collect a bundle. She has also been talking to Sue Eng (Gallants) who has proposed doing a 'Boatyard Tour' possibly using the Town Train. Sue to be invited to next meeting for an update

MR would like to put collecting tins round the town for the Christmas Lights

The Vicar has offered help for both the Big Gig and BBQ and Christmas Market, he has agreed to organise the evening entertainment for Friday 4th Dec

JH asked at what point could people still make changes to the map **GG** said it must be asap as it is officially complete but she may be able to squeeze in a few last minute changes.

It was agreed that meetings would generally take place on the first Tuesday of the month

CW The new website is being designed by Melissa Love, CP will provide words and Susanna Stables the pictures. Steve Beresford will continue to host the website for free.

Actions:

DA to register as data controller

LG to speak to Padstow about joint marketing

Chamber to circulate questionnaire to members and **KJ** to make contact regarding Neighbourhood Plan

JH to update email contact list

DA contact **CM** (Safe Harbour) asking for Curry Club venue

SH to provide info on funding opportunities. Chamber to elect someone to follow up and expand

GG invite Sue Eng to next meeting

MR Source and place collecting tins

DA/MR Invites and promotion of next Curry Club

Meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Next meeting Tuesday 7th April Safe Harbour (venue TBC)