

LOSTWITHIEL BUSINESS GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2005 32 FORE ST, LOSTWITHIEL

Present: M Hoskin, D Watts, M Sands, L Abrahams, L Southgate, J Manwarring, M Dobbie, D Phipps (DP), A Barratt (AB), K Southgate (KS), M Askew, A Gibbons, B Gibbons

Apologies H Swire, C Swire, D Willcox

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from meeting held 16 November 2005 were accepted.

Matters Arising

The "speed trigger" sign on the A390. - A Response from Cornwall County Council Road Safety section in Redruth was received on 17th November. The Council have no plans to install a permanent sign in Lostwithiel.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Restormel Council dated 22 November advising that the Business Group had been awarded a grant towards the cost of Christmas decorations in the town.

Chairman's Report

Chairman reported there was an opportunity for businesses to advertise at the Beer Festival being organised for March by Lostwithiel Rotary Club. Future publicity for the town should appear in the May edition of BBC Home and Antiques Magazine. A feature on Lostwithiel in English Home magazine is also anticipated.

Treasurer's Report

There are now 64 paid up members of the Group. with The Parade, Encounter Cornwall, and the Wild Food School joining since the last meeting. The current bank balance is £2534.

Area Forum Report

Two bids for Lottery funding for the Local Nature Reserve and a Heritage Project have been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Both bids are for approx £50,000. Lindsay Southgate reminded the meeting that the money being requested for the Local Nature Reserve was intended to preserve the salt marshes along the River Fowey. There are no plans to set up the Nature Reserve as a major tourist attraction. The Forum office has now reopened following repairs after water damage to the building.

Town Map Redesign

Adrian Barratt, Mike Dobbie and Denise Watts provided an update of their plans for a redesigned town map, combined with information and photographs of the town.

Detailed prices for printing the leaflet have been obtained. The first 5000 copies will cost £1795. A reprint of 5000 copies in 2007, with updated text will cost £185. Proofs of the map should be available from Palace Printers next week.

It is still planned to publish the new leaflet by the end of March. The proposed distribution of the leaflet as follows:

1000 to local Accommodation providers.
500 to Lostwithiel TIC
3000 to other Tourist Information Centres in Cornwall.

Various options for other distributions points were discussed.

Dickensian Evening 2005 and plans for 2006-02-16

The 2005 Dickensian Evening was regarded as a great success. It is estimated that over 400 people visited the Duchy Palace.

The meeting agreed that a £100 pound donation should be given to a charity nominated by Graham Hoskin. **Margaret Hoskin to advise Treasurer of chosen charity.**

It was agreed that the 2006 Dickensian Evening would take place on Thursday 14th December 2006. Having two brass bands for the 2005 evening was reported to have worked well and it was agreed that both Lostwithiel Town Band and St Minver Brass Band should be invited to attend.

Action KS to contact both bands.

It was suggested that children from Lostwithiel School should be invited to participate in 2006 event. **Action KS to contact Lostwithiel School.**

Christmas Decorations

Denise Watts noted that several Christmas Trees in town, particularly along Queen Street had not been removed. The Chairman advised that because Brendon "The Town Man" no longer lived in Lostwithiel the method of removing trees employed in previous years could not be implemented. Businesses were requested to remove their own trees. If anybody is experiencing difficulty then please contact the Chairman.

Mel Askew asked if Old Palace Antiques could have another tree bracket.

Western Morning News Best Food Town Competition

Lostwithiel are in the final of the competition, competing against Topsham in the small towns category (2,000 to 3,999 households).

AOB

Denise Watts suggested the possibility of some shops opening in the evening to coincide with boat trips from Fowey to Lostwithiel during Du Maurier Week. **D Watts and M Askew to contact Fowey boat operators to establish dates and times.**

Denise Watts suggested businesses in town could take advantage of possible extra trade during Carnival Week. For example decorating the shops, organizing a treasure hunt etc. The Chairman asked members to consider other options.

Bernie Gibbons explained how his daughter and son-in-law have set up Encounter Cornwall based in Lerryn. The company offers Walking, Cycling and Canoeing in the Fowey River area. They are aiming to work closely with accommodation providers in the Lostwithiel area. More details available on their website www.encountercornwall.com

The topic of subscriptions for 2006 / 2007 was raised. In view of the high level of expenditure this year, particularly on publication of the town map and in running of the Dickensian Evening. All members present at the meeting held the view that raising next years subscription to £20 would still represent exceptional value for money. It was pointed out that subscriptions to the group had been held at £15 since the Business Group was initially formed in April 2001. **Action KS to check Constitution to determine how subscriptions are set.**

Post Meeting Note :- para 16 of constitution states "The annual subscription for members and corporate members shall be £15 per year for review six months after the Group's Inaugural Meeting, and annually thereafter at the Annual General Meeting."

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 19th April 2006 at 8 pm 32 Fore St, Lostwithiel.

Post Meeting Note

The editor of the Lostwithiel Newsletter has contacted the secretary regarding advertising support. Although several members of the business group have advertised in the Newsletter for many years it would be appreciated if other members would consider allocating some of their 2006 advertising budget for local promotion through the Newsletter.