

TDCC Business Meeting

Date: 8th January 2018

Location: Tavistock Room, The Bedford Hotel, Tavistock

In Attendance

Committee Members

Chairman, Mike Harper (MH)

Secretary, Richard Cosgrave (RLC)

Members

Tim Randles for Olijam Ltd (TR)

Chris Kirwin as Chairman of Tavistock Music Festival (CK)

Martyn Hall for Walter C Parsons (MH)

Paul Williamson of Harford Bridge Holiday park attending for Tavistock Town Council (PW)

Visitors

Niel Jory – for Business Information Point (is also a WDBC Councillor) – Potential Member (NJ)

Apologies

Ross Ayling for Tavistock Town Council Staff

Annette Baskerville-Smith - Treasurer

Clair Wellsbury-Nye – Digital Organiser

Meeting Report

MH gave a summary of the of the committee meeting that had just ended and as each point was discussed conversation enjoined.

Next meeting is AGM and Mike is stepping down however will remain involved.

4 roles will be advertised as CHAIR, TREASURER, SECRETARY, DIGITAL and also 3 additional Sub Committee roles for Local Authority Liaison. They would be individuals who could represent the TDCC at meetings i.e. BID, Car Parking, Heritage, Town Council Hub

CK commented that there are many members whose usual activity could be channelled into the Chamber. This was taken on board by RLC

Next breakfast speaker Vicki Banthorpe speaking on how to spot the perfect customer and that we are now actively seeking a speaking a speaker on GDPR.

We've been asked for opinion about the "Devon Business Rate Pool Pilot". No one present was able to give a definitive answer. But it was suggested that it was a practical way of all the rate collecting entities in Devon to collect rates in a way to protect an individual borough from the failure of a

single large (business) ratepayer to make payment. Anecdotal evidence suggested that this arrangement had benefited WDBC in the past.

Plans for Tavistock Business Show to take place W/C 17th or 24th May depending upon availability of Butchers' Hall. Annette Baskerville-Smith was taking the lead for TDCC.

CK was invited to take the floor and complained that TMF had been removed from the list of members but acknowledged they hadn't paid (he had just given RLC £20 cash for 2018). Complained he hadn't been able to sign up through the website (RLC checked later – it seemed to be working...) but RLC/MH not in position to dispute as we are acknowledging issues with other parts of the site/email.

CK asked TDCC for a contribution of £200 to cover costs of the Tavistock Music Festival. MH committed TDCC. To understand the scale of the festival RLC asked CK for the number of events and seats that were available across the Festival. No answer beyond "lots" and that "St. Eustachius can hold 400"...

Brief discussion about Chamber Membership – high thirties. No one on the committee could work out where previous high figures came from. Points of interest about the Music Festival for 2018:

Some of the shows will be accompanied by a British Sign Language 'signer'.

There is to be an Alan Bennet event which looks like being a highlight.

There then followed an emotional exchange which the Secretary offered to minute as "A Spat". Mike mediated and moved the conversation on.

However, the take-away from the discussion was:

If your group runs an event and you want that event to stay in the control of your group – you need to be ready to do it on your own.

There aren't spare staff in the local authorities who can be co-opted onto event committees.

Transparency means that local authorities find it difficult to be proactive.

Transparency means you have to put a great deal of effort into getting funding for anything from any local authority (as TDCC found out with respect to the last Business Show)

Random information

The Man Engine is back in Tavistock on the Tuesday after Easter.

Reports from members

MH for Walter C Parsons.

WCP have just completed the purchase of the old Police Station in Callington as a new site for the company. They are expanding, not taking over an existing funeral directors business.

PW for TTC

The Town Council has been working flat out to make sure that the proposals for the development of the Old Magistrates Court were signed off by all involved. The TTC staff were working a full stretch on a range of projects having just finished the refurbishment in West Street they were now moving onto the work on the Pannier Market.

TR for Olijam

“Moorlinks” now delivered to Chagford and Moretonhampstead (TQ13 8) meaning circulation has risen to 25,000 per month.

NJ – for Business Information Point

BIP will be running a range of workshops Devon on a variety of subjects e.g: Growth Strategy for SMBs, General Marketing and GDPR.

Other matters

CK gave apologies for the meeting 5-2-18 then ignored that MH had called the meeting to a close to carry on and announce that Tamar Trails parkrun had had their best attended run at their run just after Christmas despite the very low temperatures (and was grateful to WDBC for not fixing the parking-ticket machine).

Closing comments

Next breakfast event – 18-Jan-2018

Next Business Meeting – the AGM - 05-Feb-2018