

HALESWORTH BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 10 March 2010 at Lovewell Blake's offices

Present: Brian Bale (Chair), Douglas Mizon, Eileen Heaps, Tim Heaps, Jack Clayton, Geoffrey Kiddy. Rachel Ducker and Colin Huggins also in attendance

- 1 **Apologies:** Karen Knights, Keith Wright, Maria Wright, David Ruddle. Philip Reeve also not in attendance.
- 2 **Minutes** of meeting held on 17 February 2010 were approved.
- 3 No matters arising on agenda.
- 4 **Treasurer's Report** – Circulated. General Funds amount to £2,402 and £229 is held on behalf of the Town Centre Group.
All relevant papers have been submitted to Barclays Bank in order to open an account there and a final response is awaited.
- 5 **Secretarial Report** – Confirmed that Merlin's Shoe Shop has joined since the last meeting.
Confirmed that the AGM notices will go out by the end of March.
- 6 **Halesworth Town Centre Group (HTCG)**– CH reported on the meeting held on 2 March. It was well attended with some robust discussion on matters ranging from Christmas Lights to the group's relationships with other town bodies.
With regard to Christmas Lights and other celebrations it was noted that the former Halesworth@Christmas group has now disbanded. HTGC intends to take this on for 2010 and will be arranging for the transfer of funds from Halesworth@Christmas. These funds will be ring-fenced for Christmas celebrations. Rachel Ducker will take over the PR role previously held by Dudley Clarke. JC, as treasurer of Halesworth@Christmas will liaise with CH with regard to the mechanics of transferring funds.
There was general agreement that HTCG should continue under the umbrella of HBC but that efforts should be made to make HBC more relevant to town centre businesses.
BB said that he would circulate a brochure produced by the Diss Business Association which might contain some useful ideas.
TH suggested that another survey of businesses might generate some greater interest. HTCG is intending to implement its own recruitment drive.
A new town brochure is being costed.
Signage – Some of the traders in Market Place and surrounding areas are proposing to produce a sign for the Angel end of the Thoroughfare telling visitors about what lies beyond in the Thoroughfare extension, Market Place, Steeple End, Chediston Street, London Road and Miles Ward Court. The Town Council has been briefed and is supportive and will allocate two councillors to a sub group to take this forward. Rachel Ducker would also like to be involved.
HBC will be willing to contribute to the cost of this signage.
- 7 **Events** – EH reported on the success of the Reability visit. BB will write to Veronica Downing thanking her for the evening.
31 March breakfast – Hammonds. St Margaret's Catering has quoted for this. It was agreed that they should be asked to reduce the selection and reduce the price accordingly. Agreed that, regardless of cost, the charges to members and guests should remain the same as usual. The body shop visit after breakfast will go ahead.

28 April - AGM – Hammonds – Venue booked. Catering being sorted either with Suzie Anderson or Maureen Took.

26 May breakfast – Wissett Plough.

23 June evening – BB to investigate possible visit to Hemcore.

28 July breakfast – Angel – Mark Hawes of Barclays Bank.

The October Quiz may have to be moved. Our usual question master is retiring. CH mentioned that he might consider the role.

- 8 Tourism** - TH reported that new members had joined at the recent AGM and that closer links with HTCG are being investigated. A new Town Trail is being produced. HBC agreed to contribute £200 to the cost. TH circulated the latest web statistics for Halesworth.net which indicated a considerable increase in interest.

Geoffrey Kiddy had to leave the meeting at this point and advised the meeting that he will be standing down from the Executive Committee at the forthcoming AGM. BB thanked him for his support over the last three years.

- 9 Town Plan** – A consultative event is being organised for the evening of 26th March and all day on 27th at The Rifle Hall to present aspects of the Town Plan and obtain input from members of the public. HBC is invited to take a stand and talk about business in Halesworth to whoever wants to. DM requested to email all HBC members asap to ask for volunteers to man the stand for periods and advise them that any representations made in the past regarding the LDF will be ignored in favour of new representations being made now.

- 10 Tesco** – Nothing to report.

- 11 Any other business** – DM/TH mentioned proposed changes to the website as regards subscribers/interested parties. Agreed to make suggested changes as soon as TH has completed dealing with bugs in the system.

DM mentioned that Traditional and Green may ask for membership in the next few days. The meeting agreed to accept any such request without waiting for our next meeting.

DM also mentioned that Edward Jones have closed their office here. It was agreed to let their membership run to the end of the year.

CH mentioned that Tony Goldson had advised him of cash available for market towns via the Waveney Valley Local Action Group. Noted.

An invitation has been received by both HBC and the Christmas Lights Committee to have a stand at April's Annual Parish Meeting. To be followed up by DM/CH.

- 12 Next meeting** – Wednesday 14 April. CH will not be able to attend.

The meeting closed at 07 40 pm.