

Axminster Chamber of Commerce

Management Committee – Monday 17th April 2023 at 6.30 pm

at the Tiffin Box, Trinity Square, Axminster

Present: Jane Rockett (Chair), Karen Hussey (Vice Chair), Jess Brooks (Treasurer). Alison Hayward, Laura Joyce, Ella Tarratt, Ellis Holt, Pippa Galvin, Colin Hayward plus 3 visitors from Seaton Chamber – Carl Northcott, Sean Taylor and Richard Betts.

1. **Apologies:** Barrie Hedges, Steve Holt, Karen Dowdeswell, Mark Dowdeswell, Gemma Moore
2. **Minutes of last meeting**
The minutes of the Management Committee held on the 20th March 2023 were approved as a correct record.
Proposed: Ella Tarratt **Seconded:** Alison Hayward
3. **Matters arising**
 - a) No update on Christmas grotto costs for this coming year
 - b) AGM is Monday, 22nd May, 6.30pm at the Heritage Centre, Axminster Food was discussed with Laura who will provide 4 platters and invoice Chamber. We have 2 speakers coming. **A reminder was made that nominations for committee positions should be sent to Barrie before the next meeting.**
4. **Visit by representatives from Seaton Chamber of Commerce**
Sean Taylor gave a power point presentation (see attached) which explained how they want to revive the StopLine Way from Colyford to Axminster, which would then link the villages and towns in the Axe Valley, boosting tourism. They were asking for our support in principle. No one present had any objections to giving it our support.
5. **Treasurer's report**
Balances as follows – Reserve account £1650.42, C/A £654.45, Tide £1029.22. Jess has just received her card reader and pin so will set up and then transfer the tide account to the current and close the Tide a/c. Jane has received debit card and card reader but cannot access online yet. She will ring bank this week.
Jane to check if payment for sewing machine has been received – think there may have been a problem accessing account to do so.
6. **Correspondance**
 - a) Members can now advertise in newsletter from Axe Valley Academy – next edition goes out 26th May. Deadline for ads is 18th May – send to jane@axminsterprinting.co.uk 1/4 page ad is 130 x 92mm wide and will go on their social media as well. This is a great benefit for Chamber members. Please share the social media from Axe Valley Academy so it is of mutual benefit to us all.
 - b) Barrie has asked that 2 x £75.99 be agreed for 2 new parasols for bench project, to replace damaged ones. These are stronger. Question was asked could they be printed so we could get sponsorship. Jane to ask Barrie. Karen asked if we could state the ringfenced Totally Locally monies when giving the balances. **Action: Jess**
 - c) Barrie sent a message to say that the possibility of a Railway display was being investigated in partnership with Waffle and Axminster Heritage centre in ex RC building.
 - d) Tour of Axminster Carpet factory is available. Alison is to contact Barry Searle to arrange a date for the tour one evening.

7. Membership sign-up process

We have 27 paid up members. Discussed committee taking a section of our list and approaching businesses as it is too time consuming for two people to do on own. Ellis kindly offered to approach businesses on Millwey Industrial estate.

Committee asked for some key benefits for joining Chamber so they had it to hand when approaching people. Jane is to put something together.

8. Axminster Town Council report

Nothing to report as council is in Purdah due to elections, except for the fact that the town maps were being put up this week.

9. Easter Trail

Jane reported 80 forms given out, 41 returned of which 15 had some correct answers so name was drawn from those winners. 2 businesses didn't put their egg in window. Brief discussion took place re repeating next year or doing something different. Had lots of positive feedback from those who took part – they enjoyed it and did discover new businesses.

10. Training Initiative

Barrie to circulate Steve's training suggestions again. In the meantime it was suggested that we organise a social media training session based on the making of reels/video content using phone/ipad. We brainstormed a list of people for Jane to approach.

11. Networking sessions

A discussion took place. Ellis asked if we could call it something other than networking such as incorporate the words business support.

Ellis also suggested support/networking groups for like minded groups such as caterers, beauty. Jane to check with Ella about one she thought already existed. Ellis costed breakfast at £7 per head. Westcotts have offered to run the first one with a talk. Aiming for June. Karen to liaise with Stuart.

12. Banners update

Crowdfunding appeal is going well. As of the date of this meeting it had reached £936, with the addition of separate pledges. 16 banners ready to display plus a further 5 at various stages.

13. Axe Vale Show

Not doing this year. Lack of people to man the stall and lack of literature to give out. Will review again for next year once membership is extended and perhaps a booklet is ready to give out.

14. Any other business

- a) The George are running events for a Pride week in June. There is no Exeter one this year. Colin asked if banners could do one for Pride. Jane to liaise with Tommy and Barrie.
- b) Gate to Plate is happening in October. Had discussion about smartening up the look of town before then. Jane to approach businesses in West Street – Community Shed have offered to clean Fabric Shop banner if agreed by owner, to enquire about tackling fly posting on old Santander building. Community Shed have said they will paint the door next to Boots if we get permission. Jane to investigate.

15. Date of next meeting – the AGM Monday, 22nd May, 6.30 pm at Axminster Heritage Centre

