

Minutes of Axminster Chamber of Commerce held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
6.30 pm at Tiffin, Axminster.

Present: Jane Rockett - Chair (Ax Printing), Alison Hayward – treasurer Ax property), Karen Hussey – vice (WG potter Funeral Directors, Jess Brown and David Heath (Weldaway), Laura Joyce 9Tiffin), Ella Tarratt 9Lomon Plaice), Dawn Anderson (Post Office), Claire Ranyard (Jurassic Glamping), Rachel Jordan (Flamingo Pool), Kate Ridout (early Bird graphics), Sandie Draper (Sweet Shop), John McFadzean (Community Shed).

1. Apologies were received by Tony Benger and Fred Wells.
2. The minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> July were approved. Proposed A Hayward, seconded Sandie Draper
3. Matters arising –
  - a) Awards on hold. Leigh not available to run it at the moment. It will still be supported in principle of someone wants to organise it.
  - b) Weldaway tour – will take place on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October – timing to be confirmed. It will involve a tour of Weldaway and RH Signs and a very short meeting to discuss anything urgent.
4. Treasurer's report – We have £514.58 reserved for banners and general amount of £2468.22.
5. Membership – we have 38 paid up members. Barrie Hedges is currently going though business directory for which we are very grateful for his input. We have an up to date list of members and know who we need to approach for payment. Sandie has agreed to chase payment in batches.
6. Correspondance
  - a) Rev Kay d'Albertson sent an email to Jane to say that businesses were in her prayers.
  - b) Jane had written to the Police Commissioner, copied in Cllr. Foord, Town Council and Rev Leisa expressing our concerns for a decline in behaviour in Axminster. We made 13 points from our last meeting. As a result we were directed to Inspector Phil Gray, both he and PCSO Hayley Widger responded. The key point to come out of it was that everything should be reported either using 101 or directly to Inspector Gray on [philip.gray@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:philip.gray@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) or 01392 290657. We agreed as a Chamber to encourage any crimes mentioned on facebook to be reported. He also offered to come to a Chamber meeting – Jane to ask him to visit in January to talk about shop lifting and also how to de escalate and situation with the public.
- 7) Town Map and Leaflet – Final proof was presented. 9 maps will be printed. Re leaflet – discussed that although we have missed this summer season due to various complications and movement of businesses we are to consider having a smaller print run now as C Ranyard said that 2026 bookings were being taken now and their was scope to advertise, alongside the out of season tourists. Jane to confirm price for smaller run and we will vote on it via email. Kate was thanked for all her work on it.
- 8) Social media update – Password is being sought from those who set up page so Alison can post on business page, not in her name – since the meeting this has been achieved!
- 9) Christmas Update
  - a) Light up night is 29<sup>th</sup> November

- b) Window dressing competition – 1<sup>st</sup> prize £25, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Lyme Bay Champayne (donated by Jurassic Glamping) and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Box of chocolates (donated by the Sweet) along with publicity and certificates. Judges to be decided.
- c) Christmas grotto – Swish and Flick are running grotto details as follows –  
It will be held on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December @ The castle 12.30 to 4 p.m.  
Sundays 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> @Higgler 12.30 to 4pm  
Tickets are £5 to be sold by Swish and Flick.  
Castle and Higger to run morning events at their premise same dates as abpver 9.30am to 12 noon. The Castle are doing breakfast with Santa (timed slots), Higgler are doing cookies and Santa. Prices to be confirmed= booked directly with those venues. There will also be a Santa Paws – ie Santa with your pet – more details to follow.

10. £5 per person. Possibilities – The Guildhall, Masonic Hall, Whitty's, The George. Ask Graham Barton if he will compare. In aid of Light up. Jane writing questions. Will include local round. . Need prizes, crips and nuts and a draw.

11. Empty properties – Jane has updated website with Fred Wells building in West Street. Discussed updating it further with all empty properties ie now WBW, Co op in South Street, previous dry cleaners in South Street.

12. Town Council report – Town Council are also backing up and adding to what we have noted re graffiti and burnt toilets.  
There are two vacant seats on the Town Council.  
The royal British Legion and Town Council have purchased 150 large poppies to be put up all around Axminster. They should make a huge impact.

AOB

Sandy told us about Street Fayre held in Chard for Carnival week. Dawn said a Jason Baker organised it. Some members of committee suggested famers market, antiques fair – someone needs to come forward to organise it. Needs further discussion.

Ella mentioned there is a get together on 9<sup>th</sup> October 3pm at Tiffin – organised by Villages in Action to promote folk music in the area. Everyone welcome.

Christmas get together 15<sup>th</sup> December at Tiffin – details to be decided.

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Next meeting will be held at Weldaway on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October – details to be confirmed.