

Minutes of Axminster Chamber Management Committee held on Monday, 21st October at 6.30pm at Axminster Community Shed.

Present: Jane Rockett, Alison Hayward, Colin Hayward and Mark Dowdeswell and Kara Burrough.

1. Apologies were received from Karen Hussey, Sarah Hunt, Karen Dowdeswell, Sarah Jackson, Kate Ridout.

2. Minutes of 16th September were approved as correct. Proposed AH, seconded MD

3. Matters arising

We have received funding from Axminster Town Council and will now pay Waffle for the costs pertaining to What's on in Axminster Website. Alison to arrange.

b) 80th Anniversary celebrations - no more info received from Heritage Centre.

4. Treasurer's Report:

a) £742 is ringfenced for banners

We have remaining balance of £2950.60

b) We need a membership secretary and someone to do social media. Jane and Alison to meet with Barrie on Thursday to talk about the social media. Alison to do advert for membership secretary.

5. Banners update:

Sarah will forward to Jane an update of the repairs needed for the banners.

Jane to ask Barrie to estimate costs needed for repairs

All prizes were collected following the banners trail- trail to be repeated next year with tweaks.

Sarah Jackson proposed the idea of a banners colouring book to sell to fund the banners element. She will cover the cost of the first print run, other quotes to be sought. General discussion took place re what to charge for it, maybe the inclusion of pencils, splitting it into two versions (maybe simple designs and more complicated or an Easter launch and a Summer one). Maybe sell in Heritage Centre, suggested approaching Care Homes - history aspect so not just for children. Will discuss again when know costs.

6. Chamber website

Alison and Jane met with Adrian (Pink Pigeon). He will arrange to forward secretary emails to Chair, create logins for AH and JR for website, create logins also for Business Directory, try and get mail chimp login for JR and AH. Discussed archiving newsletters, maybe connecting love of a railway to axminster.biz, Jane to update spreadsheet re commercial properties, Adrian to fix a contact link (done). Adrian offered to do any updates needed for which we are very grateful.

7. Railway update

Bingo made £250 - a good amount. Lots of things in planning stage for railway projects including a track day. Grants being applied for. Open at half term to the public.

8. Christmas update

a) Jane showed proofs of Xmas loyalty cards, posters and vouchers. All approved for printing with one amendment of return card whether full or not. Launch Thursday, 14th November.

b) The Christmas Tree Festival is going ahead in the church this year. Letter will follow to all traders and charities/ community groups. Organised by Jane, Karen Bostock and Mandy Loveridge.

c) Christmas buffet social arranged for the 16th December at the George Hotel, £10 ahead. Jane and Alison to sort out invites.

d) No grotto happening at moment

e) Kara updated us on light switch on which is 23rd November from 3 pm to 9pm. Invited traders to have a stand. Full for food. Could do with some crafters.

f) Best dressed Xmas window. Kara said Rotary would donate £100. Chamber agreed to match the £100. The winner would receive £100 from Chamber and the £100 from Rotary would be given to a local charity/

community organisation of their choice. Winner would also get a wooden plaque organised by Community Shed with Axminster Tools.

9. Lyndon Norman

not ready to present yet.

10. Town promotion.

Mark informed Chamber that a group had been formed to get on with promoting Axminster, made up of Barrie Hedges, Mark D, Matt Smith and a few others. Will keep us informed of any projects so we don't duplicate.

Town map and leaflet awaiting decision from Town Council re design.

11. Benches update

It was proposed from PCC and BH etc that Chamber take on funding, coordination, insurance and communication. It was suggested by us that we get a quote for the things involved and that we then ask Barrie to apply for a grant from Axe Vale Show to go towards the costs. Alison to check insurance details. Will vote at next meeting as not quorate.

12 Axminster Town Council report

There are allotments to be let if anyone is interested.

The Belle View Cow and mural are owned by Tesco and are therefore responsible for their upkeep.

Talked about the potential coaches visiting - ATC still deciding on suitable coach stop.

No updates on Castle Hill Closure.

No update on finger post signs

Update on housing numbers and potential play park at Bovis.

Updated with councillor left and one joined

13. AOB

St George's complex is now owned by the bank. They are keen to let the units.

Talked about the other empty buildings. Chamber to approach a couple for further details.

Axminster Town Council have found an aerial view of Axminster from 1942. Lent to Heritage for celebrations next year.

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm