



Meeting Minutes

Held at:	Devil's Kneading Trough			Date:	Wednesday 5 th October 2005		
Present:	Ann	Sutherland	Chair	Mike	Copland	Jeff	Higgins
	Richard	Boden		Dave	Dubber	Chris	Pound
	Ian	Cooling		Jeannette	Henderson	Nicola	Warren
						Adrian	Westwood
Apologies:	Sarah	Butt		Delia	Copland	Francis	Huntington
	Tatiana	Cant		Mary	Hemsley	Jenny	Lye
	John	Claydon		Janet & Barry	Hullett	John	Morris

Action

1. Introduction

Ann opened the meeting by saying what a good time was had at the Social Event and thanked Dave for the excellent food. Dave commented that there were fewer people than last year. Ann then introduced Adrian Westwood, PR Consultant who was going to talk about the Wye Residents' Guide which he is producing.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Ann thanked Robert Earll for carrying out the duties of treasurer over the year. Robert presented copies of his report (see attached). He commented that income was down slightly over last year, but expenditure up considerably. A new cost is for Business Wyse, and there had been more donations. The largest costs are for the insurance for the Street Party. Robert reported that we currently have just over £5,000 in the bank, much of which is the expenditure for the Christmas Street Party. Chris Pound offered to find cheaper insurance.

Ann mentioned possibly getting funding from the council in future years. Ian confirmed that matched funding could be in kind, i.e. the cost of labour and materials could be included for the calculation of funding, provided that around 10% was in cash. Ann stressed that we must have the support of the Parish Council for this event.

4. Election of officers

All members are asked to submit proposals for Chairman, Secretary and Vice chair by Wed 16th October. Please send proposals by email to nicky@frenchforfun.co.uk or by hand to Jeannette Henderson at Wye News.

5. Business Rates

Robert said that the rateable value of his business had increased by 30%, which was not related to his income. However, it would appear that most other business in the village had seen their rate decrease, as a result of the small business rate relief. Ian offered to help investigate Robert's bill. Jeff Higgins mentioned that as gas and electricity prices were increasing it was worth asking existing suppliers for a one year contract, which usually resulted in better prices. Chris said providers now had to give information about "green" content on a bill, so people could choose on price and/or green issues.

6. Christmas Lights and Street Party – Friday 2nd December

Ann reported that everything was organized – police, ambulance, fairground people, etc. and ads

Chris Pound

ALL MEMBERS

Ian Cooling



had been taken in the Parish magazine, etc. Clubs and societies will pay £10 for a stall and keep the money they make. Ann stressed the need for WBA members to run stalls because the money comes back into WBA. Robert kindly agreed to run the raffle again and Ann appealed to any member who could **DONATE A THIRD PRIZE TO THE RAFFLE** (something substantial). Chris Pound offered to be involved. Jeannette agreed to do the **tombola**.

Luckley House has donated a Teddy bear to use in a “Guess the name of bear” stall. We need someone to run stall.

Jeff Higgins agreed to take stall for a game, and said that the Wooden Spoon would donate a hamper for the tombola

Nicola will run the **Bottle** stall and Ian will run a **Book Stall**.

If anyone would like to donate a bottle (or any item to for the party) **PLEASE TAKE IT IN TO Mary Hemsley – 150 Bridge Street or Ann at Ticketyboo**.

Other suggestions for stalls were dresses and Bric a brac.

Ann stressed that members could use the evening to promote their business and **More members are needed to run good quality stalls** to make this a viable event.

The event will be attended by local dignitaries, including the mayor of Ashford.

In response to Jeff’s question about promoting the event, Ann said that posters would be put up around Wye and other villages (e.g. Hastingleigh, Brook). There will be a page in the next Business Wyse and the November Parish magazine.

7. Any Other Business

Ann announced that sadly Nigel Mclean’s wife had passed away. She has sent a card and proposed sending a donation on behalf of WBA, which was agreed.

Business changes: Ann will also send a card to Sarah Butt for the opening of Wye Saddlery this Saturday. We will be losing The Gift Horse – the building is up for sale and and Gill is retiring.

Farmers market: Richard said that as Christmas falls on Sunday, he has asked permission to hold the Farmers market on Christmas eve (still provisional). Ann said that WBA members could think about what they could do to encourage people to shop in the village on Christmas Eve.

Fairtrade: The Parish Council has discussed making Wye a “Fairtrade village”, although exactly what this entails has not been spelt out. Rosie Heart had expressed concerns that her business could be boycotted if it is not “fair-trade”. Generally businesses need to know exactly what is required.

Wye website: Chris Pound said there was a lot of out of date stuff on the Wye village website. Ann said there had been problems with this because of Kantara’s business. Ian mentioned that the College is going to design a Wye Parish site. Chris Pound offered to host it. Chris agreed to take the WBA site on as a project.

Wye Guide : Adrian Westwood of Key Design described the new annual publication about Wye and surrounding villages, which will be out beginning of November. It will have 40 pages of editorial paid for by ads. The print run is 5,000. It will have an associated website. Adrian asked for ideas for editorial - storylines, features, etc. **If any member has any stories, etc about Wye, please contact Adrian Westwood (tel: 07985 483083 email: adrian.westwood@hotmail.co.uk**.

A suggestion was a “Blue plaque” guide. Ian mentioned that there were over 90 listed buildings in the Parish. Adrian suggested an event for 10th anniversary of WBA next year – how businesses have done in 10 years since Nov 1996.

Refreshments: Everyone thanked Dave D for providing the excellent refreshments

Next Meeting :WEDNESDAY 26th October 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. at the Devil’s Kneading Trough and then 23rd November.

Action

ANY MEMBER

Any member

Any member

ALL MEMBERS

All members

Chris Pound

All Members