



Meeting Minutes

Held at: Devil's Kneading Trough

Date: Wednesday 22nd February 2006

Present: Ann Sutherland Chair;
Richard Boden; John Claydon; Ian Cooling Mike Copland; Delia Copland; Dave Dubber;
Robert Earll; Jeff Higgins; Janet and Barry Hullett; Chris Pound; Nicola Warren

Apologies: Jo Bond; Sarah Butt; Jeannette Henderson Jenny Lye; John Morris; Angela Walker
Tatiana Cant

Action

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Harry Hoad – Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

Ann introduced Harry Hoad who had kindly agreed to attend this evening to talk about the opportunities available through our local Chamber of Commerce.

Harry began by emphasizing that he was not on a membership drive but wanted to bring to the attention of WBA the huge amount of business advice that was available through the Chamber. He explained that the DTI through the Enterprise Agency spends £400 million supporting businesses of all shapes and sizes. He said that lots of businesses need advice but perhaps don't know where to find it, and that the people at the Chamber were there to help. They could put businesses in touch with people who could help with many aspects of business such as legislation, taxation, etc. Anyone could ring up and go along and see them and they were looking for close involvement with the business community.

Harry suggested that WBA could visit the Chamber for one of our meetings and they could organize a workshop on a subject of our choice – e.g. marketing, financial planning, etc. Harry explained that the average membership fee was £150 + VAT, but you don't have to be member to take advantage of advisory service.

Compared to the Federation of Small Businesses, the Chamber had a more local presence and there was free legal help and assistance, free advisory and networking events supported by Business Link Kent as well as 1000 members to market to.

There was a general consensus that we should ask if WBA could join as an association.

Harry left some leaflets which any member can pick up at Wye News.

What topics would be of interest to members?

NW to write to Jo James – membership sec. KICC

3. Brief update on Wye Future Group

Ann explained that she and other WBA members were involved, but as independent individuals and not as part of WBA and that the WBA logo would not be attached to anything that might compromise WBA in any way.

Ann reported that an explanatory Newsletter was being sent to households in the village. She emphasised that WFG was a group of concerned professional people, not a vigilante group. There were three groups – Community and fund-raising; planning, infrastructure & environment; politics, communications and public relations.

The objective is initially to speak out against what has been suggested so far- i.e. 3-4000 houses, offices, retail park, roads from junction 10 and A28 and increasing the numbers in village by at least 5,000 and the transformation of Wye into a town. The group wants Wye college to thrive, but at an appropriate level. If Imperial's plans were to reduce



significantly, then WFG would look again at objections. Richard Boden asked if we are saying what we **do** want, but there had been no dialogue with Imperial. Mike said he would like to see a liaison group taking forward the views of village and Chris said that WFG would be happy to be that group. A letter has been sent to board level people at Imperial and to the Borough and County Council challenging the Concordat. Ian mentioned that normally the first we would have heard about Imperial's plans would have been when outline planning application went in i.e. in about 18 months time, however Imperial lost goodwill in the village at 9th January meeting. Ian also reminded the meeting of the jobs and businesses in the village that had been lost in the last few years, and agreed in principle with some development on brownfield sites but respecting the ANOB. He also emphasised the need to play a part in the consultation process (documents in the library) and to keep communication channels open. Ann mentioned that Imperial had said that details of the 9th January meeting would go to everyone in the village, which had not happened. (*Secretary's note – report since received*) John Claydon raised the point that WBA should remain neutral to retain our independence. It was agreed that this topic be kept on agenda for each meeting.

4. Business Wyse Update

Contributions are still needed for next edition. Nicola agreed to liaise with person at Chamber of Commerce for an article.

5. Any Other Business

Gift Horse: Ann mentioned that it was sad to see the shop close and she had sent flowers to Gill and wished her well from WBA. However, it was great news that a new shop would be opening.

Folkweave: Sat 28th April 8 p.m. Village hall in aid of amnesty.

Wye Arts Association: Ann had received funding request from Geoff Chapman. The meeting asked her to reply that should they be doing anything locally they should feel free to come and ask again.

Next Meeting : WEDNESDAY 22nd March at the Devil's Kneading Trough.

Action

**ALL
MEMBERS**

**Ann
Sutherland**