



Action

All stall holders

of the evening.

Ann said thanks were due to Calcutt Maclean, who had done the letters etc.

Stall holders are reminded to bring their own floats.

The meeting gave Ann a vote of thanks for doing all the arrangements.

5. Any Other Business

Business Wyse: John Claydon reported that there had been a good reaction to the latest edition, and although it appeared that some people had not received theirs, there were plenty of copies.

There would not be an issue before Christmas, but a membership list will be distributed with the Street Party information. The next issue will be in January and we hope to include photos of the Christmas Street Party. John urged members to take advantage of Business Wyse in terms of articles and advertorials. Ann thanked John for his excellent work in getting this off the ground. John said that there was potential outside Wye e.g. Bilting, and that Business Wyse is something tangible to offer to WBA members. It was proposed that advertisements would be charged at £10 each for members after from the next edition.

John suggested that we produce our own business directory with reduced rate for members, or possibly with rates according to the ability to pay. It was also suggested that we put a membership form in Business Wyse.

Jeannette suggested explaining how WBA spends the money collected at the Street party.

Folk Weave 1st December: Barry Hullett reminded the meeting that their event, Folk Weave would be held on Thursday 1st December in the village Hal. All proceeds are to go to the hospice.

Fireworks: Nicola reported that she had received a thank-you email from David Traske for our donation to firework display. She also noted that the site at the Crown had not been cleared of rubbish since the display. Francis said he would take it up with Students union.

Refreshments: Everyone thanked Dave for providing the delicious refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.23 p.m.

Next Meeting : 18th January (for a 5 minute meeting, then social) at the Devil's Kneading Trough.

Text of Ian Cooling's email to members, dated 25th November 2005

Dear All,

At Wednesday's WBA meeting, the future of the Borough's TICs was raised and concern was expressed about possible closures. I agreed to clarify the situation with ABC.

I have now spoken with Sarah Barber, Tourism Officer at ABC, and she tells me that the TIC operation is indeed being carefully examined for efficiency savings, in common with every other aspect of the work of the Council. Sarah said that the service offered by the Ashford TIC may change to a degree, but confirms that closure is highly unlikely. Any reductions that are made, will most likely be made at the TIC office in Tenterden.

The Ashford TIC is operating well, but not well enough to consider offering it to the private sector as a going concern. However, the Council will be looking to enhancing the commercial side of the operation, in order to increase income.

In other words, in looking to greater efficiencies, ABC has considered both cutting costs and increasing income - in exactly the same way as WBA members would in a similar situation with their own businesses.

The Council will be cutting costs in Tenterden, while seeking to increase income at the Ashford TIC. The net result will be efficiency savings running to several thousand pounds and a consequent reduction in the overall cost of the service to the residents of the Borough.

Hope this helps resolve the concerns expressed at the meeting, but please do not hesitate to mail me back if you have any follow-up queries.

Regards,
Ian

December 05

Meeting Minutes

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Working to Keep the Heart in the Village