



Meeting Minutes

Held at: Devil's Kneading Trough **Date:** 27th January 2005

Present:

Ann	Sutherland	Chair	Robert	Earl
Richard	Boden		Rosemary	Freeman
Tatiana	Cant		Mary	Hemsley
John	Claydon		Jeannette	Henderson
Ian	Cooling		Jeff	Higgins
Mike	Copland		Barry	Hullett
Delia	Copland		Janet	Hullett
Angela	Cryer		John	Morris
Dave	Dubber		Nicola	Warren

Apologies: Nigel **Mclean**

Action

1. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

2. **Welcome to Jeff Higgins**

Ann Sutherland welcomed the new owner of the Wooden Spoon Preserving Company Ltd. Jeff explained that he and his wife, Belinda, had taken over the company as from 5th January and that they were good friends of the Bolts. Jeff, who is from a marketing background, said that more emphasis would now be put on marketing the products.

3. **Debrief on Christmas lights, Street Party and Raffle**

Everyone agreed that the lights looked good this year, although there had been some vandalism. Robert Earl reported that we had made a total profit £1,727, including sponsorship – this was £2 up on last year and was the best yet. There had been a very good atmosphere and already certain groups, including the WI, were making plans for next year. Ann thanked everyone for their help and support. John Morris thanked particularly Mary, Ann and Robert.

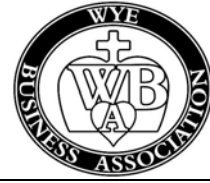
4. **Tourist Road signs**

Richard Boden reported that after working on this for 3 years, he had finally reached agreement for a big sign (1.7m x 1.4m) to be put up on the A28 Canterbury approach. The cost is approximately £1,900, which includes £500 for traffic management to erect the signs. There was a general discussion on who should be asked to contribute (e.g. Church, College), as it was not just the WBA members who would benefit. Ian Cooling agreed to find out if ABC can help. Richard will give Ann the bullet points for her to write a letter asking for contributions on the basis of a ten year time frame. Richard will get final quotes.

Ian Cooling
Ann, Nicola
Richard Boden

5. **Update on One-Way System**

Ann said that as a result of her attending the Highways subcommittee meeting, the Parish Council realises that WBA is a body that must be listened to. Ann made the point that only 60% of businesses were given the questionnaire because of lack of volunteers. Ian spoke in defence of Parish Council as he organised the questionnaire, saying that over 1000 questionnaires went out and 400 were returned, of which 80% were in favour of the one-way system. He said that the Joint Transportation Bureau would have taken a decision in June without consultation, but because of the questionnaires, the decision was taken in September. John Morris made the point that the original questionnaire did not ask if the village wanted the



one-way system, only if they wanted it to stay.

Ian emphasised that there is consultation at every stage before decisions are taken and that anyone could influence the decision, so it is up to WBA to make their views known at the appropriate time. He added that the Parish Council's powers are limited and decisions are taken by KCC and ABC. Most of the £25,000 being spent on roads in the village for the year ending March 05 had been allocated. A further £25k would be spent in 2005-06.

Richard agreed to write to David Bond asking for a contribution for the signs.

In response from a request from John Morris, Ian has sent a list of all proposals.

Attached is the list of priorities that the Parish Council Highways Committee have produced for work around the village for (roughly) the next 4-5 years

Barry Hullett made the point that traffic speeds around the village were constantly increasing particularly in Bridge street and Churchfield way.

Janet Hullett suggested using the Parish Magazine and Farmers market as means for making our views known. John Claydon offered to produce at cost a monthly WBA newsletter to project our profile and advertise WBA businesses. However, there were no volunteers to take responsibility for a Newsletter at this meeting.

6. Good news from Ashford Tourist Dept

Ann said that she had written to ABC Tourism Dept. as everything they produced seemed to be geared towards Tenterden and west of Ashford. She reported that she was now in touch with Sarah Barber, who had £1,500 on offer, and did want to feature Wye and Chilham and welcomed input from WBA.

7. Any Other Business

Christmas cards: John Morris had the idea of using the winning design in the Christmas card competition as WBA Christmas card – all thought that this is this worth pursuing.

Bridge closure: Mike Copland handed round a copy of a KCC public notice in last week's Kentish Express about a railway crossing closure from Sun 27 Feb for 18 months.

Fireworks: The Student Union has asked if WBA would sponsor the fireworks this year. Ian explained that as there were now fewer students, there was less money. Ann said that it would be considered at the next meeting when the budget would be discussed.

Students: Mike said that there would be no student entry in October this year and existing students would finish in 2 years.

Tourist office: Barry raised issue of visitors in Wye and whether there could be a tourist point. Ann to raise issue with Ann Barber.

Ashford's Future: Ian said there was to be a meeting on Ashford's future on 15th February in the college at 7pm with Martin Bacon. Leaflets will be distributed.

Website: Nicola made the observation that the Wye Website had not been updated since August 04. Tatiana will look into it.

Law and order: Ann said she had attended two of the PC's law and disorder committee meetings, which was a good way of finding out what's been going on. Some break ins had occurred between 4 and 5 in the morning. Ann will raise any problems at meetings.

Refreshments: Ann thanked Dave Dubber for providing the excellent refreshments. The meeting closed at 20h14

Next Meeting

Thursday 24th February at 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. at the Devil's Kneading Trough.

Action

Richard Boden

Ann Sutherland

Ann Sutherland

Tatiana Cant