



Meeting Minutes

Held at: Devil's Kneading Trough

Date: 29th June 2005

Present: Ann Sutherland Chair Ian Cooling Jeannette Henderson
Richard Boden Delia Copland Janet Hullett
Tatiana Cant Mike Copland Francis Huntington
Geoff Chapman Dave Dubber John Morris
John Claydon Robert Earl Chris Pound
Angela Walker

Apologies: Nicola Warren Joanna Bond Jeff Higgins

Action

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Dr Geoff Chapman a new member. Geoff and Sheila Chapman run a Bed & Breakfast Business from their home in Oxenturn Road. Chris Pound was also welcomed although not a new member Chris has never been able to attend a meeting on a Thursday.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Reports on ongoing business

Tourism/Brown signs :Ann was pleased to announce that the first brown tourist sign is now up on the A28 and congratulated Richard Boden on steering this project through. There was a loud round of applause from members! Richard reported that no safety measures were in place at the time of erection and therefore he will be looking out for this cost on the bill, which we will not pay. Richard also organised a photograph of the sign to appear in the next edition of Business Wyse.

Network Rail: Following Ann's last report on the letter that she received from Network Rail which was not satisfactory, she followed up MP Damian Green's request to see this reply. He in due course has sent a copy of the letter that he wrote to the Chairman of Network Rail in response to a letter from Wye Parish Council on this matter. Ann read Damian Green's letter to the Chairman of Network Rail to members.

Wye website: Ann has updated the original article on the beginnings of WBA and Tatiana has added this to the website. Tatiana has liaised with Ashford Borough Council's tourist website designer and confirmed that we are now linked.

Business Wyse: Ann read out a letter from Miss Sheila Child, congratulating the WBA on our new publication and requesting that her comments are passed on to the authors of the articles. John Claydon reported that the Summer issue amounts to 8 pages and is almost ready to go. A proof was circulated around the meeting for all to see. John was congratulated and thanked, likewise Janet Hullett and Delia Copland who have assisted.



Action

3. Wye Parish Council

Ann announced that this subject was put on the agenda because she (and others) have been aware that the Parish Council have not been without their problems lately. She thought that discussion by the WBA might come up with some ideas of support for the Council. Ann started the debate by mentioning that the WBA had recently supported the Wye Gardeners' Society Show, her point being that a united village is a thriving village. She therefore urged members to attend Parish Council meetings whenever possible. John Morris who is now Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council reported that there is now a Communication Committee, as they felt that this had been one thing that has been lacking. John also encouraged people to attend meetings so that the Parish Council could get a feel for the mood of the parish on matters. A healthy discussion followed on various matters and a proposal was made by Jeannette and seconded by Geoff Chapman, this proposal being that the Parish Council appear at a Farmers' Market morning, so that people can meet them and get to know who their Parish Councillors are in an informal manner.

4. Midsummer Event

Our community summer event, 'A Bit of a Do' on Sunday, 24 July, is well under way. However, Ann appealed for volunteers to help serve teas and man the bar, allowing everyone to enjoy the afternoon. She also appealed for prizes for the raffle (in aid of the Pilgrims' Hospice) - any business doing so will be promoted at the event. Another request was for any unwanted presents at home that could be used in the 'Largest Pass the Parcel in the World' game. These can be dropped into either Ticketyboo or Mary Hemsley. Ann would be very grateful for any gifts as this event is being run on a shoestring. Ann thanked the Wye Parish Council for their donation of £100 towards the cost of the band.

All
members

5. Ideas for the future

Ann reminded members that the WBA is theirs and to please feel free to come up with ideas for the agenda in between meetings and to ring her on 812671 or email her on ann@sutherlands.clara.co.uk

6. EcoShop in Wye

Nicola had circulated members with details of an idea for an 'ecoshop' in Wye for further comment.

7. Any Other Business

Tourism: Ann informed members that she had received a copy of an email sent by Ashford Tourist Department to the Clerk of Wye Parish Council, the subject being Mid Kent Downs Sustainable Tourism Project. This is an initiative that forms part of the Mid Kent Leader Plus funded sustainable tourism project. They are looking to work with six villages in the Mid Kent Downs area. The areas chosen for the Ashford part are Wye and Chilham. In terms of Wye, they wish hamlets such as Hastingleigh, Brook and Crundale to be included. There is a budget of £1,500 to give towards the cost of a leaflet or website that promotes the tourism/rural offer of Wye. Ann reported that there is a firm brief to include various aspects of the village - enjoying the Kent Downs, information on visitor accommodation in Wye (B&B, self-catering), places to visit (Wooden Spoon Preserving Co, Brook Agricultural Museum,



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Wye Crown), places to eat (Devil's Kneading Trough, local pubs), local history and architecture (Church, historic buildings, Wye College), shopping facilities in Wye, walks, cycle routes, Farmers' Market, all things that visitors may be interested in - while at the same time conveying the beauty of the area. This is only an example of the sort of thing that those concerned may wish to include, at the same time satisfying the Mid Kent Leader Plus funding. The project at the moment rests with the Parish Council and has also been mentioned to our Borough Councillor, Ian Cooling. Ashford Tourist Office has requested a meeting with those from Wye interested in pursuing this project. Geoff Chapman, from his experience in tourism, favoured the use of the website. Richard Boden suggested a theme entitled "Wye - the gateway to the North Downs". Ann asked for assistance if she is to be involved in this, and John Claydon offered to be involved.

WBA Award: Ann apologised to members for omitting to mention that the Association had been awarded the Long Cup for the group who has contributed most towards the community. This award was made at the Wye Parish Council Annual Meeting. Unfortunately, the Parish Council has mislaid the cup! But Ann congratulated members and said that it was well earned. John Morris (Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council) reported that the Parish Council were endeavouring to locate the missing cup.

Wye Gardeners' Society Summer Show: Ann thanked all members who had responded to her appeal to support this long-running village event and congratulated Jeannette Henderson on winning the wildflower arrangement category.

WBA Social Evening 2005: John Claydon proposed we fix a date for our social evening, which will be held on **Friday, 23 September, 2005 at 7.30 p.m. at the Devil's Kneading Trough.**

Resignation of Treasurer: Robert Earll who has maintained this position for a long time has regretfully had to resign. Ann thanked Robert for everything that he has done as Treasurer and asked if any member would consider filling the post.

One Way System : John Morris reminded everyone that there will be a meeting in The Parish Church on the 16th July (details will be posted on the Parish Council Notice Board) This meeting is to get the public views on all the traffic easements which are planned to go in place following the New Traffic Layout. John pointed out to members that it is very difficult to guess the public mood when making decisions and that it would be helpful if as many people as possible attended this meeting and not to leave the Parish Council to guess.

Refreshments: Everyone thanked Dave Dubber for providing the delicious refreshments (and those at the top end of the table were particularly grateful for the cherry slices!)

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Next Meeting

WEDNESDAY 27th July 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. at the Devil's Kneading Trough.

All
members