

Minutes of the Chamber of Commerce meeting – Monday 12 June – The Swan at Hay

In attendance – Clare Fry (Chair), Chris Kemp (Treasurer), Andrew Williams (Eighteen Rabbit), Jess Freegard (minute-taker), Maria Carreras (Hay Festival), Becka Jones (RM Jones Pharmacy), Josie Pearson, Zoe Verry (Hay Markets), Ronan Hunter (The Swan @ Hay), Alexine Bartholomew (Hay School), Giles Morgans (Pixel Shifters), Gareth Ratcliffe, Helen Jenkins (Slimmers World), Pat Eckley (TIB), Mary Fellowes (Broad Street Books), Anna Nicole (Period Costume Shop), Josh Boyd Green (Green Ink Booksellers), Derek Glashan (Hay Deli)

1. Apologies

Apologies were given from Emma Balch (Pottery Cottage), Val Harris (The Table), Annie and Dave (Fudge Shop), Margaret Wesley (York House)

2. Pavement accessibility

Clare Fry informed the group of the continuing concern over the accessibility on the pavements in Hay-on-Wye. Gareth explained that a thread has been developing on Facebook and that it has been noticed that street furniture and signage has been increasingly used on the pavements in town. Gareth suggested that it would be better for the CoC to adopt a pragmatic approach and work in partnership with Powys Officers, the Town Council and other community organisations. The 1.2 metre pavement accessibility rule was discussed and it was suggested that specific rules may have changed and agreed that many of the streets in Hay are a lot smaller than in most other towns. Josie Pearson also stated that businesses need to be aware of dropped curbs and allowing access at all times. The street and school front signage was discussed in relation to the importance of signposting the pedestrian access to town from the Craft Centre, rather than crossing the street at the Blue Boar. Gareth also updated everyone on the Speed Watch group present in Hay and the monitoring of Newport Street, Forest Road and Gypsy Castle Lane in particular.

It was agreed that several issues need to be informally discussed with Powys Council including access and accessibility for partially sighted people, buggies and wheelchair users in particular. Gareth suggested that a unified positive approach would be beneficial in making businesses aware of accessibility rules and safety issues and combining this information with friendly marketing encouraging people to visit Hay. It was agreed that it would be good to have a community document with reminders and helpful pointers to make accessibility possible for everyone. Members were made aware the issue of accessibility was also due to the discussed at the Town Council meeting and that the CoC would wait to hear an update. Gareth and Clare agreed to start informal dialogue with Powys Council and it was suggested a member of the Town Council would also be invited. Josie also volunteered to be involved.

AP – Clare, Gareth, Josie and possible Town Council member to speak with Powys Council regarding pavement accessibility. Create draft community document and send to Dial-a-ride and Little Stars pre-school for feedback.

3. Hay Festival feedback

Pat Eckley informed the group that during the Festival over three thousand visitors had been to the Tourist Information office from all over the world. She also said that two people had to be on hand in the Tourist Information office daily to help the visitors. Andrew announced that to his knowledge no problems had arisen with cash machines either at the festival site or in town. It was also noticed that the queue outside Barclays bank was not as long as in previous years and was most likely due to people being able to pay by card more easily.

Anna Nicole raised a question about participating at the Festival and queried whether it was possible to have a smaller stall/space for a smaller budget. Maria responded that the fee started at £3000 for smaller, local businesses depending on size and explained the importance of fees and sponsorship in relation to the running costs of the event. The winter festival also offers opportunities for stall holders. Clare suggested that the Hay Festival mail out next year to integrate better with more local businesses and also prompt local sponsorship. Zoe suggested that space was also available for a stall/small unit at the Castle during the Festival.

Gareth informed everyone that overall the town had been fairly quiet with residential issues with no major incidents during the festival. He said that the police had been helpful, reactive and supportive and that the only complaints were primarily small parking issues.

Mary stated her disappointment with the lack of footfall and trade at the end of town on Broad Street and attributed this to the Globe not being open and not having the bus stop in place near the clock tower.

Clare announced that 32 CoC members had replied to the feedback survey so far and that the feedback was generally positive. Clare also stated that she would be having discussions with both festivals and that all members would be welcome to participate to discuss the issues of the cashpoints, buses, traffic management and the Globe. The first meeting with Hay Festival is scheduled for Friday 16th June.

It was agreed that the posters for the buses were produced too late this year and that they had not been put up visibly in most buses, this was left to the bus company and it appears they didn't put up all the posters. It was agreed that the posters need to be produced and distributed far sooner next year. It was also agreed posters should have clearer text, bigger font and better imagery. Photographer Adam Tatton-Reid took professional photographs at the Festival and in town this year and has produced photos that could be used by the CoC for multi-functional purposes. It was agreed that the photos did not need to be brand protected or exclusive and for the CoC to pay £250 for all 32 images. These will be available for marketing purposes to all CoC members.

AP - Clare Fry to liaise with Adam and pay for the photos, then distribute a link to members for use.

4. Christmas Lights

Clare advised that she and Andrew would be meeting with some people willing to help with the installation of the lights next week. Last year the CoC received a grant towards the Christmas lights, so the target of raising £8000 will not be achievable this year unless additional funding can be found, that particular funding pot is no longer available.

Clare suggested that a small sub-group of CoC be set up to research and bid for extra funds, this group can meet informally and work independently in their own time. Funding could also be used for other community projects, donations etc, not solely for Christmas lights. ***If you are interested in working on the fundraising sub-group please contact Clare Fry on 01497 820604 or email her hire@canoehire.co.uk.***

Mary gave feedback from other local businesses over the concern of lack of lighting in Broad Street. Other areas that do not have Christmas lights are the Craft Centre or the Swan at Hay on Church Street. Mary stated that some businesses on Broad Street were happy to donate money towards the lights if the CoC could have them put up. Chris agrees this is a great way to fund the lights and other business owners have worked this way in previous years meaning that more areas of town get lights.

AP – Clare to meet with Annie from the Craft Centre, Broad Street Group and Swan @ Hay asap to discuss the extension of lights around the town. Andrew and Clare to meet next Thursday with individuals who could possibly provide installation services.

5. AOB

End of WW1 commemoration

Helen represented her partner Kellvyn to discuss his efforts in organising an event for August 2018 to mark the 100th year anniversary of the end of WW1. The event is planned for 4th and 5th August next year. It is hoped that the event can include a pipe band, choir and to encourage local businesses and people to get involved and dress up. Kellvyn would like to organise a living history group to give educational displays and that local children will be able to attend. Helen stated that unfortunately the Royal British Legion is unable to provide any funding for the event and that the cost will likely be £4000 including the living history group and security. Andrew suggested an informal request could be made to the CoC. A fundraising bingo night is being held on 29th June at Clyro Court to help raise money. Additional fundraising is also needed. Email kelvynjenkins@aol.com for details.

Hay-on-Wye maps

Clare thanked Derek and Tom for the amazing job they have done on producing the scribble map-pads. The maps have been deliberately designed with a lack of detail of street names and shops so that the map does not become outdated. One pad of maps is available to each CoC member (100 sheets on each pad). Any additional pads will cost £5.

Jute Bags

Derek informed everyone that the Hay Festival jute bags had sold out on the second day of the Hay Festival so they purchased the remainder of the 40th Anniversary Bags from him. More jute bags will be designed and produced later this year.

6. Date of next meeting: Monday 17th July 6-7pm. The Swan at Hay.

2017/2018 meeting dates and other info:

Fundraising Sub-Group	Thursday 22 nd June 7pm Clare and Andrew will be in the Tapas Bar at 7pm, if you are interested in helping with fundraising and bid-writing for town/Chamber work then please join us for a drink and an informal chat
Independence Working Group -	Tuesday 11th July 6-7pm @wantocanoe (Clyro side of Hay Bridge), all welcome! The Prince of Hay and Admiral of Hay Navy will be in attendance, tea and cake provided. A meeting to discuss the plan and ideas for a regular annual celebration of the Independent Kingdom of Hay (April 2018)
Christmas lights meeting -	Monday 11 th September 6-7pm. The Swan at Hay
Chamber meeting -	Tuesday 19 th September 6-7pm. The Swan at Hay
Chamber meeting -	Monday 16 th October 6-7pm. The Swan at Hay
Christmas lights meeting -	Monday 6 th November 6-7pm. The Swan at Hay
Chamber end of year meeting -	Thursday 14 th December 6pm onwards. The Swan at Hay
Chamber meeting -	Monday 8 th January 6-7pm. The Swan at Hay