

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Marden Business Forum, held on Thursday 25th April 2013, at 6pm in Burtons' Boardroom, Pattenden Lane, Marden. TN12 9QS

Committee Members Present:

David Burton – Chairman
Angus Boucher – Treasurer
Steve Ford – Secretary
Ben McGannan -
Robert Long

Forum Members Present:

Andrew Streek
Melvin Streek

Apologies received:

Liz Stanley (Committee member)

Welcome: David Burton extended a welcome to all as host, no further introductions were necessary.

Minutes of Last Meeting: the minutes of the last committee meeting were distributed before the meeting, and were agreed after one amendment, of fact.

Matters arising: there were none, not covered by Agenda items.

Co-option of additional committee member – Andrew Streek, of Claygates, had put himself forward as a committee member; it was agreed by those present for his co-option to the committee.

Treasurers Report – The bank balance is £5811, with £275 of amounts to be paid shortly. The MBF insurance will be due shortly, and Angus agreed to contact NFU to change the contact address.

Forum Address: It was agreed to use the Freepost address of Burtons, which would assist members and provide a non-descript address for the MBF.

The address will be: Marden Business Forum, Freepost SEA7234, Tonbridge, TN12 3BR

Website Update: SLF reported on the website, which has now been rebuilt and moved to a new hosting company, following the initial successful transition, which was then shut down by the hosting company due to vulnerability of the site to attack. It has been “freshened” during the process, but hopefully keeping the essence of MBF.

The email address: committee@mardenbusinessforum.co.uk will be used by all the committee members for general emails in and out on behalf of the MBF, initially this will be moderated by DB.

Membership

Database: SLF/DB agreed to rebuild the membership database from the three differing lists we have available, in addition to that behind the web site. There is no cost to the MBF for the new site, but the hosting charge will be passed to the MBF, which is a nominal amount.

Renewals: The conceptual design put forward by DB of introducing the committee, in a letter to accompany the invoices, was accepted.

Invoicing: This will occur in the next two weeks.

Event Promotion Protocol: Events relating to the Businesses and Community of Marden will be circulated to members and advertised on the website, at the discretion of the Chairman and or Secretary, with recourse to the committee members by email if in doubt. Those presented so far were agreed, Marden Fete, Swinging in the Park and Kent Healthy Business survey.

7.5 tonne Weight Limit via Yalding- the outcome of a wide ranging discussion was to present via an email to the MBF membership, the outline of the proposal, and how to make representations to KCC, either for or against the limit, as each member may wish. KCC will take more notice of the number of representations. BM will draft this for DB to circulate.

Networking Events: 4 events per year based upon a Social Activity (bowls, curling), an audience with..., a Fundraising event (quiz,) and a Business Get together. MS and DB agreed to work on the first event.

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AOB:

Definition for MBF membership: this will be discussed by DB /SLF and brought to the next meeting, for discussion, as a result of a request to join the forum.

Date of Next committee Meeting: will be on 31.5.2013 commencing at 6pm, to be held in the conference room of Claygate, Pattenden Lane, Marden TN12

Meeting closed at 7.10pm, with thanks to David for hosting the meeting.