

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Marden Business Forum, held on Thursday 27th February 2014, at 5 pm in Airclean's Conference Room, Pattenden Lane, Marden. TN12 9QS

Committee Members Present:

David Burton – Chairman
Liz Stanley - Vice Chairman
Angus Boucher – Treasurer
Steve Ford - Secretary
Ben McGannan – Committee
Andrew Streek – Committee

Forum Members Present:

None.

Apologies received:

Bob Long - Committee

WELCOME: David Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

This meeting was moved to Airclean's Conference Room for convenience, and this was notified to the committee via the Agenda.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: the minutes of the last committee meeting had been distributed before the meeting, and were agreed, with an amendment to the number of members.

MATERS ARISING:

- Liz Simmonds of Cornwallis Academy, has made contact re a Careers Day, to be held at the Academy on 12.3.2014 from 8.30 to 3pm. SLF had been in email contact about this, and it will be circulated to members via the website/newsletter. In addition there is a Job Shop run by the Academy which can be used to share Job vacancies to students.

LAST NETWORKING EVENT - 20.2.2014 at West End Tavern. Thanks were expressed to LS for her work in organising this event. Paul Savage was an excellent speaker with a good balance, and our thanks go to him. The event was well hosted by the West End Tavern, with good and plentiful food.

NEXT NETWORKING EVENT 26.3.2014 with SMBA at Mockingbird Tea Rooms, Staplehurst. This event will be shared with members via the website, the Newsletter and an email reminder a couple of days prior to the event. We will circulate any information available from SMBA, as we do not wish to share our email lists, which we treat as confidential.

FUTURE NETWORKING EVENTS

- Discussion occurred about charging for events, to try and add value to the evenings for members, as numbers are continually increasing, but a lot still have yet to attend. This was not agreed.
- LS to liaise with Anno Distillers to arrange an event at their distillery for 8.5.2014 commencing at 6pm
- LS to liaise with Nick Hall to arrange a Summer Event at his winery for 10.7.2014, using the "Pancake" food supplier if possible. AS to provide contact details to LS
- Possible future event at the Marden Cricket Club

DIRECTORY 2014:

- **Now gone to print**
- The cost saving of printing fewer pages has been authorised to be spent on an improved quality of paper and covers, to provide a similar feel to the fewer page directory. An example of this was circulated and accepted.
- Need to add further advertising to 2015 edition to minimise the burden on the finances.
- SLF was thanked for his efforts and the team behind him, in bringing the directory to print.

- **LS** had been looking into delivery of Directories, and will coordinate the various methods. **SLF** to send out email inviting members to deliver them locally, return address to be to LS
 - Marden Parish Council will have a box for distribution to new comers to the village
 - There are approx. 1000 homes within the centre of the village
 - Water men from Wellbeing people, will deliver on their local rounds

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWALS

- There are 91 paid up members of the MBF, with an additional 3 Honary members, and one more in the joining process.
- A membership renewal invoice for 2014/15 year will be sent out with the Directory to all members (**SLF** to provide labels)
- A membership renewal invoice for 2014/15 year will be sent out with a Directory to all 2013/14 members who did not renew. (**SLF** to provide labels)
- Committee members will see if they are able to hand deliver any of these, which will be available from Burtons during w/c 10.3.2014

FINANCIAL REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP:

- AB outlined the cash book, finances are £6254.15 with an Anticipated spend on the directory will be £6000, with an income from advertising of £2660.
- Invoices for the advertising within the MBF Directory 2014 will be sent out tomorrow.
- With the membership renewal already set, if we continue on a similar basis to this year, all reserves will be used up at the end of the next financial year, and membership costs would need to be reviewed. It was the intention to reduce reserves.
- Donation of £150 to the Marden Health Fair will be paid. LS will also have some MBF directories available at the fair.

AGM for 24.4.2014 at 6pm venue Claygate.

- DB will stand another year for Chairman
- Others indicated that they would stand for election for another year
- DB indicated that Bob Long, may resign, due to work commitment

AOB:

- LS reported on two questions to businesses, which are within the draft Questionnaire for the Marden Neighbourhood Plan, a few amendments were offered for acceptance.
- LS had received information about the start of Neighbourhood watch within the village.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: will be on 27th March 2014 commencing at **5pm**, to be held in the Burtons Conference Room, Pattenden Lane, Marden.

Meeting closed at 6.10pm, with thanks to Steve of Airclean for hosting the meeting.