

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Marden Business Forum, held on Thursday 28th November 2013, at 5 pm in Burtons Conference Room, Pattenden Lane, Marden. TN12 9QS

Committee Members Present:

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

Forum Members Present:

None.

Apologies received:

Andrew Streek – Committee

Welcome: David Burton, welcomed everyone to the meeting

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

Matters arising: nothing not covered on the agenda

Financial Report: AB outlined the cash book, finances remain high at £6507.15

Marathon / Air Ambulance Support: Views had been expressed by all the committee in various emails, and having invited MBF members to show support for the Kent and Surrey Air Ambulance, via the newsletter and website, no further action would be taken.

Membership: MBF now have 78 paid up members, with a further new member joining. Discussion occurred around the MBF membership area, and it was confirmed that the Marden Parish is the basic area of membership, but those outside the area would be accepted with committee approval.

- SLF to pass to Liz the contact for Highgate Nurseries to chase
- LS to canvas retail members in the village to join the MBF

Directory 2014:

- Letters updating the information held about members and options to take adverts in the directory have been sent out, with a return date requested of 5.12.2013. SLF to chase / collate and update the information. SLF to log hours for reimbursement of costs for labour used in collation work.
- Agreed in principal to use the same publisher as initial costs discussed are similar to last year, and we will benefit from their previous experience. AB to confirm publisher's willingness to take on the work during late January, and to firm up on pricing.
- LS, offered to update and check the useful numbers area of the Directory.
- Marden PC to be invited to write a page in the Directory
- DB to write an MBF forward for the Directory
- Plan is to publish late January 2014, with distribution during February 2014.

Marden Parish Council: LS nothing to report.

Yalding Weight Limit: Further consultation reports are being sought, relating to financial implication to businesses..

Yuletide Event:

- Will be in the café side of the Unicorn Pub
- Angus will perform Meet and Greet and pass out name labels.
- 6pm meet / 6.30pm Helen / 7pm Curry / 8pm finish John Warnett to Top and Tail
- LS has 5 raffle prizes allocated.

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- SLF to provide Microphones and speakers.

Possible South Maidstone Business Association, MBSA cross Networking: an invite has been received to have a joint networking evening, it is believed that several members of the MBF would welcome this opportunity, and DB will liaise to achieve this, likely to be on the last Wednesday of the month from 5.45 to 8pm, fairly formal with a guest speaker, probably at the Weald of Kent Golf Club.

Technology Strategy Board / Audi: Keith Grimley of Locate in Kent is exploring with the MBF an event put on with Maidstone Borough Council and Audi Maidstone to outline to Businesses in the Borough the grants which are now available, the area previously having been excluded from them. DB will explore this further to gain invites for our members, or an event for our members.

Future Networking Events: to be decided following conversation regarding joint event with SMBA

AOB:

- There was a footnote thanking the MBF support on a poster advertising Marden at Christmas AB
- Marden Children's Centre to remain open, but at reduced hours. SLF
- Marden Patient Reference Committee, are organising a Health Day in Marden, the MBF are pleased to support this event, and will advertise it on the website. BM
- Mobile Optician for Businesses, will be running from Wellbeing People, and it was agreed to advertise this to members where eyesight screening for employees can occur at competitive price. BM

Date of Next committee Meeting: will be on 9 January 2014 commencing at **5pm**, to be held in the Wellbeing People Conference Room, Pattenden Lane, Marden.

Meeting closed at 6.04pm, with thanks to David of Burtons for hosting the meeting.