

**Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Marden Business Forum, held on Thursday 31st October 2013, at 5 pm in Claygate Board Room, Pattenden Lane, Marden. TN12 9QS**

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**Committee Members Present:**

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

**Forum Members Present:**

None.

**Apologies received:**

Ben McGannan – Committee

**Welcome:** David Burton, welcomed everyone to the meeting, the time had been moved forward to 5pm, with all the committees consent.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** the minutes of the last committee meeting had been distributed before the meeting, and were agreed.

**Matters arising:** nothing not covered on the agenda

**Review of Last Network Meeting:** Overall a very good event, lots of good networking occurred during the evening; the food was plentiful, of a high standard and good variety. Must ensure better photographs are taken, and car parking was limited, due to the venue. Direct contact by committee inviting members to the event was of benefit, whether by email or telephone.

**Christmas Event at Unicorn Pub on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Helen Grant.** LS is coordinating this event. Invitations, Andrew offered the services of Penny to create and print these, SLF to provide address labels, Food suggested as a curry with vegetarian option. Timings, Meet at 6pm, John Warnett to “Top and tail” the event, Helen Grant to speak for 15 minutes from 6.30pm, Food at 7pm, then One minute introduction spots as required, Raffle of 6 prizes, again split the membership amongst all committee for personal invitation.

**Membership:** now have 76 paid up members, with new members still applying.

**Financial Report:** AB outlined the cash book, finances remain high at £6847, there was some discussion about the high level of the funds, but this should reduce when the directory is published.

**Website:** review empty categories on the membership lists. Some new members were missed from the Newsletter. Suggested that we email out seeking news from businesses to be shared, eg new staff, new products, successes, problems.(raised in AOB), to go one website or newsletter.

**Vehicle Restrictions through Yalding.** –AS outlined the submissions which he has coordinated, large number of farmers making submissions; approx 700 people signed the petition against the restriction, all submissions to date have been passed to KCC.

**Marden Parish Council Report:**

- LS has purchased wrapped and will deliver to the MPC for distribution at the village Christmas event 216 children’s parcels, suitable for three different age ranges. These cost £247, and the additional expenditure was agreed with thanks to Liz for her efforts in providing the parcels.
- We have sent a letter of support to two young people trying to raise funds for charity, inviting them to use an adult representative to seek prizes from businesses in Marden, as they were suggesting alcoholic prizes for a stall, after which we would circulate it.

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**Directory: - outcomes:**

- **AM** to send copy of previous printing, invoice to **DB**, to help ascertain recommendations for advert prices
- **DB** to see if previous supplier is still available
- Drop my Leaflet – have given price of £139 to deliver 1000 directories as a budget price, which is affordable
- Normal print run is 3000
- Need to check entries for Directory and the Website and see if Members would like an advert and what size
- **SLF** to format a checklist, for the above
- Consider employing a person to undertake the bulk of the work under close direction, due to high work effort in getting this correct.
- **DB,LS and SLF** to look at this next week.

**Membership:** Web site joining form - a joining member was expecting some feedback from the Joining form on the web. **SLF** to organise an automatic email, saying thank you for joining and an invoice will be received by post.

**Future Events:** suggestions:

- Event at Anno Distillers, new business in the village, Forum to provide food and Drink, **DB/LS** to investigate
- Event at Marden Cricket Club
- Event at West End Tavern
- Event at Claygate around their charity for the year Demelza House, walk around the site.

**AOB:**

None

**Date of Next committee Meeting:** will be on 28.11.2013 commencing at **5pm**, to be held in the Burton Conference Room, Pattenden Lane, Marden.

Meeting closed at 6.02pm, with thanks to Andrew of Claygate for hosting the meeting.