

**Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Marden Business Forum, held on Thursday 6th February 2014, at 5 pm in Airclean's Conference 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  
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 is the replacement for the meeting of 30.1.2014, which was postponed due to the high number of apologies.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** the minutes of the last committee meeting had been distributed before the meeting, and were agreed.

**MATERS ARISING:** nothing not covered on the agenda

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP:** AB outlined the cash book, finances are £6456.15. Anticipated spend on the directory will be £6000, with an income from advertising of £2650. There are 89 paid up members of the MBF, with an additional 3 Honorary members, and three more in the joining process.

**DIRECTORY 2014:**

- A first draft of the Directory was shared to the meeting, which was generally well accepted
  - Comments:
    - Perhaps use a different picture of Marden Village internally
    - Not happy with front cover, ask for three other versions along the lines of:
      - Map of Marden as a background with logos over it.
      - Use circular logo in centre with map within it and logos around it.
      - Photo of Marden from the air – AS to provide, AS confirmed copyright of photos was theirs and we could use it free of charge.
      - Circular logo with the words Business and Community Together within and logos around it.
      - LS to check with Marden Parish Council re their updated article
      - DB to supply forward at earliest time
      - Adverts required ASAP
      - (after meeting) AS agreed to take inside rear cover for MPC and Bathroom)
  - Errors noted within Directory:
    - Wellbeing logo – out of date
    - Business description for Angus Boucher advert
    - Ltd after Burtons Vehicle Systems Ltd. P21
    - Wellbeing advert to be repositioned (BM)
    - Stanley's want to have half page advert, plus query all adverts, and assistance with advert size and format (AG to contact on Monday)

**FUTURE NETWORKING EVENTS:**

**20.2.2014 at West End Tavern**

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- LS outlined the event for 20.2.2014, to be held at the West End Tavern, John Sauvage will share some humorous stories of how the Vet practice has changed. This will commence at 6.30pm, for 20 minutes, followed by Q&A, with food at about 7pm. Stand up Mike session if appropriate. 2 or 3 raffle prizes
  - Actions:
    - SLF to provide PA system.
    - LS to see what Raffle prizes are still available for the evening.
    - SLF to send out email to members inviting them for raffle prizes.
    - SLF to provide labels

Thanks were expressed to Andrew for the assistance from Claygate for the invitations

**Confirmed AGM for 24.4.2014 at 6pm venue Claygate.**

Invitation received for the MBF members to join with the SMBA Networking Event on 26.3.2014, at 5.45pm for 6pm start to be held at Mockingbird Tea Rooms, Staplehurst, speaker to be confirmed

**WEBSITE:** a little behind due to Directory work, LS reported that categories still appear which do not have companies for them.

**AOB:**

- AB has received a verbal request from the Careers Officer of New line Learning school, (Cornwallis), to see if it is feasible for her and the School Principal to address the forum about career opportunities
  - This was welcomed by the committee and we as businesses, should be promoting these opportunities for the benefit of both pupils and business. AB to continue conversation. DB suggested that perhaps we should be actively supporting work placements for children within Marden.
- Further discussion occurred from the previous meeting for Ideas where MBF can positively help the village:
  - Flowers for the village with signage of MBF (previous minute)
  - Flowers at the entry points to the village (previous minute)
  - Competition sponsored by MBF (Best flower display??) (previous minute)
    - School competition of drawings about the village
    - Photograph competition for adults
  - Financial sponsorship of OAP Tea at the Church (LS to liaise)
  - Sponsorship by MBF for part of the Marden Health Fair on 26/4/2014 in the Memorial Hall (BM to liaise)
- Need to engage with our members more, send out next newsletter as is and under different email address, as we believe that the standard address may have been junked previously due to its high usage.
- Claygate have supplied sanitary ware for the new toilet block at Marden Primary School
- DB clarified that at the Joint Transportation Board meeting of Maidstone Borough Council, he spoke as a visiting member and a business owner, and he made it clear that it was not as the chair of Marden Business Forum which had held a neutral view.

**DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** will be on 27<sup>th</sup> February 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.