

Skipton Chamber of Trade & Commerce

AGM

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 24th May 2016

VENUE: The Rendezvous Hotel, Keighley Road, Skipton

TIME: 7.45am for 8am start



PRESENT: **Executive:** - Billy Moffat, Reid Moffat & Co Ltd – President/Treasurer, Dave Parker- STC, Amanda Casey (Rendezvous Hotel), Tracey Weston (Bluefin Insurance Services), David Llewellyn (Tyro Training), Felicity Green (AWB Charlesworth), Wendy Lawson - Secretary

Members: Brett Butler (STC), Calvin Casper (Harry Garlick TV Centre Ltd), Nigel Brunt (Devonshire Hotels & Restaurants), Adam Dutton (Shepherd Partnership), Jonathan Kerr (Skipton Town Councillor)

APOLOGIES: Hazel Maxfield (C& H Brown), Chris Cooper (Alan Northrop Ltd), Chris Fenton (Herriots Hotel), Paul Mason (Pearson Associates), Jane Ellison-Bates (Manifest Marketing), Katie Davison (Bizzie Lizzie's), Julian Kay (Wright Wine Company), Rohan Day (Armstrong Watson), Dave Overend (Skipton Co-op Funeral Services), Bill Haigh (Willie Haigh Consulting Engineer Ltd), Robert Stead (Rockwood House), Tim Forman (Tim Forman Consulting Ltd), Victoria Roberts (Keelham Farm Shop), Sharon Hudson (Craven District Council), Geraldine Thompson (Skipton Town Partnership), Andy Higgins (Billy & Bertie's), Rachael Higgins (Beau's Kitchen), Sheila & Michael Cook (TN Cook)

Meeting commenced at 7.58am

WELCOME:

Billy Moffat welcomed everyone to the Rendezvous Hotel and thanked Amanda for hosting and catering for this year's AGM.

ITEM 1: Minutes of the last AGM 2015

The President asked for approval of the minutes of last AGM meeting on 26th May 2015 at Herriots Hotel. They were proposed by David Llewellyn and seconded by Dave Parker.

ITEMS 2: Treasurer's Presentation:

Billy handed copies of the treasurer's report to all present. He mentioned that much as last year, they presented the continuing trend of loss in revenue. This was down to a number of factors:

- Declining membership
- Lack of contribution from the Craven Herald this time for the Skipton Town Guide surplus
- A further need for website investment
- Christmas trees – reduced take up – though if all the expected monies came in – this would result in a slight surplus

He explained that a separate meeting would take place, subsequent to the AGM to discuss how the Secretary's hours would be affected by reduced revenue from a reduced membership. Currently there appeared to be no other option but to reduce Wendy's hours – however, that would of course mean less time to contribute to the ongoing tasks and activities – so a spiralling circle of decline in effect.

ITEM 3: Adoption of Accounts 2015 to 2016:

The accounts presented today were adopted by Jonathan Kerr and 2nd Felicity Green

ITEM 4: Secretary's Report and Membership Report:

Membership Report:

At the end of 2015 – 2016 we had 102 members including 1 honorarium

The current figures to date were as follows:

Confirmed as non-renewing: 10 members

Fully paid: 23 members

Part paid: 28 members

Therefore total: 51 members

Members confirmed to pay: 5 members

Members yet to confirm: 37 members

Prospective total for year
so far: **93 members**

If all 93 members renew will have a membership revenue of £6,475.00

If 56 so far committed to renew without balances paid (uplift on top of standing orders), revenue of: £3423

If only 56 so far committed renew and pay balances will have membership revenue of: £3,838

Secretary's Report

2015 to 2016 has been an interesting year; it started off with a decision that monthly meetings were proving to have no appeal for members, other than a dedicated ten or so and resource wise, they were taking up a lot of coordination time in creating agenda's, minutes, venues, and logging of attendance and apologies. Therefore the decision was made to shelve them; at least for the time being. In place of them a new initiative was launched, offering members more of an input and say with admin back up – an opportunity to host quarterly sessions, offering free advice to other members – a valuable resource.

The first one was kindly hosted by Herriots Hotel and was brought together by Adam Dutton of Shepherd Partnership. It was really well attended and received, and we had high anticipation of enjoying further sessions from other sectors. However, up until now a second quarterly session has yet to materialise.

As the year progressed we lost a few more members and highlighted by last year's Treasurer's report, it was becoming clearer that the Chamber was losing its place in the forefront of business owners' minds and the Chamber was losing revenue. Skipton businesses are blessed with having at least two other active and effective organisations, Skipton Town Council and Skipton Town Partnership (BID) – the latter being formed by Skipton Chamber of Trade some years ago. They, quite rightly, meet most needs of the town's businesses. The Chamber however, with more limited resources, seems to have been a victim to the success of the Town Partnership (BID) – and it appears that other than Christmas Trees and the Skipton Town Guide – The Chamber of Trade has little to offer in addition to those organisations. In 2015, a lot of businesses even chose not to display a Christmas tree outside their property – some feeling that the enhanced light displays along the main streets were adequate enough and therefore many decided that the additional expense of a tree and lights was not necessary.

The Chamber was formed by businesses for businesses – this seems to have been lost over the years. It means that businesses should **want** their Chamber – not **expect** from its Chamber. Therefore stricken by apathy from its members - it is left for us to consider its demise. Personally, as Secretary – I have found it hard to experience feeling this traditional and much-loved organisation fade away. I know its dedicated exec team have felt the same way – and have tried their utmost to revitalise and renew it. I'm a person who takes my responsibilities seriously,

therefore I shoulder the loss of members, as if they are my own; and yet know that sentimentality alone should not and cannot be the reason to keep a diminishing not-for-profit, organisation running.

We do have hope – in the form of the Business Awards. A working party of members has been gathering together since the last AGM to look at the logistics of celebrating Skipton Businesses with an Annual Awards and either relaunching the Chamber with a new purpose, or bowing out with an occasion. So with a lightened heart, we can offer those members who *have* renewed this year, a way to move forward and change, or at least celebrate an ending.

I have loved my time with Skipton Chamber of Trade & Commerce – Skipton is a unique place. I have sensed the comradery, the down-to-earth, no-fuss, supportive approach of business acquaintances, officials and residents within the town. A massive thanks goes to Dave Parker and the Skipton Town Council team who have continued to host the Chamber 'hot desk' and offer me support throughout the year; and to the Skipton Town Ambassadors for their unwavering support delivering the Town Guides around the town. Massive thanks also to Bluefin Insurance Services for storing the town guides – this is generosity and partnership at its best.

Whatever happens over the next month or year leading from this AGM, I continue to offer what assistance I can.

Thank you

Wendy

Wendy Lawson, Secretary

ITEM 5: Re. Election President:

Billy Moffat agreed to put himself forward for election as President, however, he asked for other members to consider the position, as in a repeat message from last year, his business commitments were increasing and this would have an impact on the amount he could do as President. Nobody else wanted to step into the role – and Felicity suggested that with the current uncertainty for the future of the Chamber, perhaps it was best to let it continue without change for now.

Proposed by Felicity Green and 2nd by Tracey Weston. A show of hands showed approval by all members present.

ITEM 6: Re Election of Treasurer:

It was agreed that Billy Moffat of Reid Moffat Ltd continued his role of Treasurer for another year. Proposed by Dave Parker and 2nd by Amanda Casey.

ITEM 7: Re Election of Executive Members:

Wendy confirmed that those of the exec board who had sent on apologies had also agreed to be re-elected on the board this time. Amanda Casey reiterated that although it was good that members were happy to be part of the exec board and contribute what they could, it was important that people turned up for the meetings as much as possible. The meetings had been adjusted previously to try to fit round exec members' schedules better and this had proved unsuccessful. The meetings were now scheduled in advance, for the whole year, and it was important for board members to prioritise them as much as possible; rather than the same few turn up and not have quorum. It was explained that quorum was six currently. Though there had been a suggestion that quorum had been reduced previously, Wendy had not been able to find the minutes to confirm that decision. As a result of this discussion a number of new proposals were put forward and approved as follows:

- The secretary position to be a full member, with a vote (Proposed by Amanda Casey 2nd Dave Parker)
- Quorum to be four – reduced from six previously (Proposed by Amanda Casey 2nd Felicity Green)
- All existing exec board members to be re-elected (Proposed by Dave Parker 2nd David Llewellyn)

Billy thanked the executive members for their contribution and support to the Chamber

ITEM 8: Election Of New Executive Members:

Two new exec board members proposed Jonathan Kerr (Skipton Town Councillor) and Nigel Brunt (Devonshire Hotels). Proposed by Tracey Weston 2nd Billy Moffat

ITEM 9: Re Election of Auditors:

Windle & Bowker to be re-elected to continue presenting the Chambers accounts.
Proposed by Felicity Green and 2nd Amanda Casey. Given unanimous approval by all members present.

ITEM 10: Honorariums:

The President declined to take up any entitlement to an honorarium and suggested that no current exec would look to benefit from the organisation.

ITEM 11: Subscriptions:

The current membership categories and fees have been in effect since April 2016:

Subscription Category	2016 – 2017 rate
0 – 4 members staff	£60 per annum
5 – 19 members staff	£75 per annum
Over 20 members staff	£100 per annum

A discussion was introduced by Jonathan Kerr in question whether another tier of membership should be introduced for Over 50 members of staff, for example – a proposed membership cost of £200. Nigel Brunt mentioned that he felt the cost of membership was very reasonable compared to some Chamber annual subscriptions which were around £500/£600. Wendy questioned whether the type of organisation was perhaps a little different – perhaps their active membership and activities benefitted members in a different way, reflected those levels of fees. Nigel agreed that they were bigger organisations. Jonathan felt that bigger, corporate businesses should perhaps contribute to the Chamber and having more staff contribute a bit more. However, as highlighted in the Secretary’s report, Wendy suggested that though it was appreciated that the topic was introduced, and she appreciated any thoughts towards increasing revenue and saving her job, the biggest challenge for the Chamber currently was proving a purpose and benefit for members specific to the Chamber and not provided by the other Town organisations. Therefore pursuing the corporates and bigger organisations for sponsorship of the business awards might be a more valuable focus of time in the current year. Jonathan conceded and all agreed for the subscription rates to stay at their current structure.

Presidents acceptance and thanks:

Billy Moffat thanked members for re-electing him to the role of President; he closed the formal part of the meeting and introduced Dave Parker to offer an overview of forthcoming events in Skipton.

SPEAKER: Dave Parker (Skipton Town Council)

Skipton Events in 2016

Dave thanked Billy for his introduction. He presented a busy selection of events and spoke of the value to Skipton in being able to offer such a wide variety of events; mentioning that a number of the events could not take place without contribution by the BID to help set them up.

Events list as follows:

10th SKIPTON BEER FESTIVAL

Ermysted’s Grammar School - Thur 2 - Sat 4 June

www.skiptonbeerfestival.camra.org.uk

SKIPTON CAR SHOW

Skipton High St - Sun 5 June

www.skiptoncarshow.co.uk

In it's second year – Dave and Brett Butler mentioned how popular this event in its first year had been. The organiser was enthusiastic and promoted the event well; the weather had been glorious that day and there were many thousands of people within the town all day. Following on from its success it was taking place again this year.

LE PETIT DEPART

Starts at Skipton Auction Mart - Sun 5 June

www.lepetitdepart.co.uk

Had been held for the first time in 2015; a legacy event organised by CDC following on from the Yorkshire leg of the Tour de France in 2014. It was a fairly quiet event last year – however it felt that it had suffered from the very wet conditions. This year, it is being televised as part of the National Elite series of cycle events.

SKIPTON CHARITIES GALA

Starts on Westmoreland St to Aireville Park - Sat 11 June

www.skiptongala.org.uk

ARMED FORCES DAY

Skipton High Street - Sun 26 June

SKIPTON SHEEP DAY

Skipton High St - Sun 3 July

www.sheepday.co.uk

Popular with locals and visitors, Sheep Day received recognition in a survey this year held by National Express Coaches, which placed Sheep Day in the **Top 5** of selected National Events.

SKIPTON CLOGFEST

Various venues across Skipton Town Centre - Sat 9 – Sun 10 July

www.clogfest.org

YORKSHIRE DALES FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

Skipton Auction Mart - Sat 30 - Sun 31 July

www.yorkshiredalesfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk

Organised by local business owners Andy and Rachael Higgins of Billy & Bertie's and Beau's Kitchen on the high street. This has received great backing and support and tickets sales have been busy since they were launched. Even though it takes part at the Auction Mart there will be shuttle buses to transfer people between the venue and the town centre.

ART IN THE PEN

Skipton Auction Mart - Sat 13 - Sun 14 August

www.artinthepen.org.uk

BATTLE OF BRITAIN PARADE

Skipton High St - Sun 11 September

YARNDALE

Skipton Auction Mart - Sat 24 - Sun 25 September

www.yarndale.co.uk

Proving to be really popular with visitors – a highlight event on calendar.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Skipton High St - Sun 13 November

CRAFTS IN THE PEN

Skipton Auction Mart - Sat 19 - Sun 20 November

www.craftsinthepen.org.uk

SKIPTON CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

Skipton Town Centre - Thur 24 November

SKIPTON SANTA FUN RUN

Starts Aireville Park - Skipton Town Centre - Sun 27 November

www.skiptonsantafunrun.com

SKIPTON CHRISTMAS MARKET

Skipton High St & Town Centre - Sun 4 and Sun 11 December

www.facebook.com/skiptonchristmasmarket

Originally organised by the Chamber – had the Skipton Town Council and bid not taken on support of this event, it could not have continued. It is another popular event with visitors to Skipton.

Both Brett and Dave Parker explained that they were looking into analysing footfall within the town on such events; to present a more accurate picture of the impact and contribution they were making to the town and compared to other towns in the UK.

AOB

PRESIDENT:

Billy Moffat thanked everyone for attending and thanked the Rendezvous once more for their hospitality and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15am