



## **Dartmouth and District Chamber of Trade.**

*The business voice of Dartmouth and District*

### **Minutes of the meeting held on:-**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>. December 2008

#### **Present**

Tessa de Galleani (Dartmouth Living), Steve Thomas (Fat Boy Designs), Sarah Duggan (Baxters), Yvonne Cottam (Dartmouth Community College), Mike Freeman (Apollo IT), Mark Simpson (By the Dart), Malcolm Pope (Riverlink), Dean McCormack (Francis Stone)

#### **Apologies**

Hilary Bastone, Lesley Challacombe, Dave Cawley, Tracie Lange, Doug Twigg, Chris Ball,

The minutes of last meeting were proposed as an accurate record by Steve Thomas, seconded by Malcolm Pope and duly signed by Tessa de Galleani

Matters arising from the November meeting

1. Sarah Duggan is awaiting feedback from Dave Cawley and Nigel Way on the application form for SDCLAG for part funding for the Marketing Manager position before it can be submitted.
2. We look forward to further feedback from Andrew Pooley regarding the proposed Pirate Festival to be held late July next year.
3. Tessa de Galleani will investigate how all local festivals are insured and whether there could be a Town policy.
4. Chamber priorities for the coming year were discussed and several ideas were proposed as to ways that the Chamber could become of more use and be more proactive for it's members:-
  - Steve Thomas would like greater involvement of the members so that we know we represent their wishes. He would also like to extend the membership. He suggested that the committee members should meet between monthly meetings and spend more time planning.
  - Sarah Duggan suggested that networking meetings every 6 months could work. Also that as the membership had diverse business interests it might be a good idea to hold meetings focused on the different sectors eg retail, support services etc. Ideas could then be brainstormed such as late night shopping, promotional weekends for the town etc. Mark Simpson endorsed this idea as common issues could be discussed.

- Mark Simpson was interested in how other Chambers operated and is about to join the Kingsbridge group. He will report back.
  - Dean McCormack suggested a 3 month forward plan of meeting agendas so members could decide which meetings would be of most interest to them.
  - Yvonne Cottam suggested the Committee analyse what made a successful meeting and good discussion as had been had at the last meeting.
  - Mike Freeman asked if breakfast meetings would be of interest and commented that members at present do not feel it necessary to attend monthly meetings although they are happy to pay the membership fees.
  - Tessa de Galleani commented that there are only a few people active in the Chamber who are prepared to carry ideas through. She would like to see more forward planning also. In the role of Chairman it is her role to carry out the wishes of the members. She feels the Yacht Club would be a better venue for meetings as it is a more social environment giving an opportunity for networking in the bar once the meeting is over. She will investigate availability for meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
5. Christmas get-together will be at Browns hotel on Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> January from 6 – 8pm, Tessa de Galleani has sent an invitation to all Chamber members but will also invite new businesses in town and other parties who she feels relevant. The committee will meet beforehand and put together their ideas for next year's agenda's.
  6. Sarah Duggan is compiling a list of local events for 2008. Yvonne Cottam will send a list of term dates for inclusion.

#### New points

7. Yvonne Cottam suggested the college could be used as a venue for meetings. The new head would like to meet the Chamber to discuss the future of the College
8. Steve Thomas raised concern as to how the S106 money is being allocated for Park and Ride and how and by whom it is being managed. Steve believes South Hams funds managed by the town should be used for events such as Candlelit and not S106 money, and only for hours requested. Tessa de Galleani to discuss with Chris Lucas.
9. Sarah Duggan reported back on The Candlelit event which had been hit with bad weather on Friday evening. It was very disappointing that some retailers did not open late and that this had led to some visitors being disappointed. It was decided that Candlelit should be discussed as a separate agenda item particularly concentrating on the perception of the event, what we want it to be and late night opening.

Next meeting (as January has the get –together) to possibly be held at The Community College on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm – to be confirmed.