



Annual General Meeting Minutes
 30th May 2013, 7.30pm
 Seaford Constitutional Club, Crouch Lane, Seaford

Present: Rob Blackman – President, Joe Fackler – Vice President / Treasurer, Gerri Ori – Special Events, Dave Argent – Events Organiser, Denise Hutchison – Minutes, Paul Franklin – Seaford Town Council Rep, Sam Shippen – Seaford Town Council Clerk, Helen Pollard – Town Centre Representative.
 Neal Richardson – Impromptu.co.uk, Alasdair Fortune – Badger Inks, Lesley Jones – Amber Property, Robert Bull – Auntie World Wide.

Apologies for absence: Lee Potterton – Website Co-ordinator, Annette Blackman – Membership Secretary, Jonathan Chappell – Website Management, Andy & Kate Steer – Amsteer Ltd, Pete Gwilliam – Specialist Training Consultants Ltd, Fred Furner – Wave Leisure.

Matters Arising		WHO
1.	Email copy of Constitution to Denise Hutchison	RB
1.	Constitution amendments and committee approval	JF,GO,DH
3.	AGM minutes to be emailed to all members & associates	DH
4.	Web Liaison position to be omitted from committee	DH, JC
5.	Email revised Constitution to all members and associates	DH
6.	Letter to be sent to Seaford Town Council in support of the proposed gates in Broad Street.	GO, DH

Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Presidents Report – Rob Blackman

Rob opens up the meeting with a warm welcome to all attendees. Rob goes on to say that he has really enjoyed the last two years being President. Everything has gone very well, all good. Rob said he felt it was a shame we couldn't get more members to join the chamber. It would have been nice to of had more exhibitions in the last two years.

Also mentioned was the early success of the FREE networking evening set up on the third Thursday every month at The Old Boot in Seaford. We really need to get behind this and support it as much as possible. Can we look into getting more publicity for this event, as numbers are starting to drop off.

Impact Seaford scheme will be really good for Seaford and the local community. We really need to have a voice in Seaford and Impact Seaford is just what the town needs to get our ideas into action.

Treasurers Report – Joe Fackler

Joe reported that last year the chamber made a deficit of £173.00. We have been struggling not to make a loss at the breakfast meeting. In the last year our agreement with The Constitutional Club is to cover for 20 breakfasts (at £6.00 each) but we only get between 12 – 14 members every month. A new agreement has been arranged and we can pay for a minimum of 16 breakfasts from now on.

Membership subscriptions are up this year by £320.00. Joe reported that some of our website costs were for the previous company that looked after the web site. We are very happy with Graphicz Ltd (Jonathan Chappell) The web site has been transformed since Jonathan took over, it has definitely been a good move for the chamber.

We have decided not to increase the membership subscriptions this year (our new year starts in June 2013) The price will remain at £60.00. Invoices will be issued shortly, we would be grateful of prompt payment. We currently have 48 members in the chamber.

Our reserves currently stand at £9163.00.

Special Events – Gerri Ori

Gerri reported the Christmas late night shopping went really well. Paul Franklin has been a great help on the committee, helping to organise the Christmas late night shopping. We raised £260 in the Tombola. Many thanks to everyone who got involved and contributed to this event.

Most shops got in involved in 'Best Shop and Best Dressed Shop' it was a real success. We were disappointed in the Seaford Means Business venture, it just did not work for us. However we all have high hopes for the 'Impact Seaford' scheme, which should bring plenty of interest to the town. Gerri went on to say he is currently on the committee for this scheme as a representative from Seaford Chamber. He along with Sam Shippen and Darum (Toytown) are on the steering committee. Any ideas would be gratefully received.

Website Management – Jonathan Chappell

Since taking on the Seaford Chamber Website management I have completely reworked the design, although keeping the outward look. I have been endeavoring to keep it informative and up to date.

Alongside the website I have started a Facebook and a Twitter account for the Chamber. I am happy to continue managing it if all are agreed.

As regards the Thursday evening sessions, I am disappointed by the turnout. There are two more planned, the subject of the June one is yet to be agreed. **Norman Baker is coming to the July event.**

The Chamber needs to decide if it wants a second meeting a month and if so what format it wants it to take.

Events and Promotions – Dave Argent

Dave informed us that he has booked Paul Costelloe for the next presentation at the breakfast meeting on 6th June. He is in the process of booking Ralph Taylor – Fair Trade Representative for the July breakfast meeting.

There have been two French Markets in the last year, one in Sep 2012 and the other in May 2013. Both events were extremely successful. Dave does a great job in running these events but does need extra help. Special thanks to everyone who has helped in the last two events, Jonathan C. and Gerri O. to and everyone else who gave Dave a break during the day.

Dave will still be organising the French Markets for the time being and will be involved in events and promotions as needed. Many thanks to Dave from all the members who attended the AGM.

Seaford Town Council Representative – Paul Franklin

Paul reported that he helps to liaise with The Town Council and will propose any good ideas that come forward from the Seaford Chamber. Paul is looking at the idea of whether we can have ‘gates’ fitted on Broad Street. This would mean we could hold more exhibition’s there as it could be turned in to a pedestrian area from time to time to promote things like the French Market, this would be good for Seaford. However this will need a full Seaford Town Council Vote of Approval. This is a matter that needs to be seriously looked into and all the pros and cons taken into consideration.

Paul is still looking into getting the sign(s) located around the town. The chamber would own the signs and Seaford Town Council would own the QR which is to be included on the sign. Members discussed whether Seaford Chamber ought to own the QR, primarily to protect it in case there is a change at Town Council level. The QR would link directly to an app which would give the phone user access to maps and any other information relevant to Seaford.

Nominations

Web Master – Jonathan Chappell :

Nominated by Gerri Ori – Seconded by Rob Blackman & Joe Fackler

Treasurer – Joe Fackler :

Nominated by Gerri Ori & Pete Gwilliam, - Seconded by Rob Blackman and Dave Argent

Membership Officer – Joe Fackler & Denise Hutchison :

Nominated by Gerri Ori – Seconded by Rob Blackman and Dave Argent

Membership Co-ordinator (Recruitment) – Alasdair Fortune :

Nominated by Rob Blackman – Seconded by Gerri Ori and Joe Fackler

Secretary – Denise Hutchison :

Nominated by Gerri Ori. As previously agreed Denise will be administering secretarial duties in a paid capacity.

Press & Publicity – Jonathan Chappell :

Nominated by Gerri Ori and Rob Blackman – Seconded by Joe Fackler and Denise Hutchison (Jonathan was absent, but later agreed he would take on this position)

Social Events & Speakers – Lee Potterton :

Nominated by Gerri Ori – Seconded by Dave Argent and Joe Fackler.

Events & Promotions – Dave Argent :

Nominated by Rob Blackman – Seconded by Joe Fackler and Denise Hutchison

Community Service Liaison Officer – Robert Bull :

Nominated by Gerri Ori – Seconded by Rob Blackman and Joe Fackler

Local Town Representative – Helen Pollard :

Nominated by Rob Blackman – Seconded by Gerri Ori and Joe Fackler

Town Council Representative – Paul Franklin :

Nominated by Rob Blackman – Seconded by Gerri Ori and Dave Argent

Vice President – Joe Fackler :

Nominated by Gerri Ori – Seconded by Rob Blackman and Denise Hutchison

President – Gerri Ori :

Nominated by Joe Fackler – Seconded by Dave Argent and Denise Hutchison`

Rob Blackman was thanked for his service a President in the last two years, we gave him a round of applause.

Gerri Ori – (incoming) President - opens up the meeting for any other business:

A.O.B

We had a discussion about the proposed 'gates' on Broad Street. Paul and Sam are looking into this and will come back to the Chamber with any development with regards to planning permission and costs etc. The Chamber have agreed to write a letter of support for the gates to Seaford Town Council.

Neal Richardson is keen to help out in the Chamber as and when he can, he will put together some suggestions for marketing at our next breakfast meeting. Neal also suggested we get in touch with the Youth Forum, who recently did a presentation at the free networking evening at The Boot. We should get them along to a breakfast meeting also.

The new Committee have decided to email all members and associates of Chamber copies of minutes.

Paul Franklin put forward a challenge, can every member of the Chamber introduce at least one new member. It's a great idea and within two years our numbers could really swell.

Paul Franklin and Sam Shippen sent apologies ahead for the next breakfast meeting as they will be away.

Gerri Ori – President - Closes the meeting at 9.45pm