

Clay Cross Town Centre Group

Minutes of the last meeting held

Tuesday 12th of August 2014 at the Batemans Mill Hotel

Attendees

Jade Hendon (JH) Batemans Mill - Chair, Andrew King (AK) Lilleker & King, Louise Manfredi (LM) Smiths Creamland Ices, Warren Makinson (WM) Clay Cross Rotary Club, Cheryle Berry (CBe) Clay Cross Rotary Club, Caron Bond (CB) Elizabeth's Wool shop, David Cocking (DC) & Ann Cocking (AC) – Clay Cross Residents

1. Apologies

Diana Yates (DY) Posh Inc, George Corbett (GC) Landscape Architect, Angela Gambetta (AG) Clay Cross Post Office, Paul Whitton (PW) PW Computers, Deborah Duffin (DD) PW Computers, Kay Adlington (KA) Food for Thought, , Clay Cross Parish Council, Steve Hardman (SH) The HR Dept., Andrew Fellows (AF) Community of Christ, Georgina Skelton and Julie Heeley G & J Hairstylists, David & Fran Nutt T Nutt & Sons Ltd, Nina Gurling (NG) Clay Cross Chiropractic, Peter Yates (PY) Junk & Disorderly, Pauline Walker and Julie from Mr Jeeves Dry Cleaners

JH welcomed David and Ann Cocking to their first attendance at a Town Centre Group meeting in their capacity as local residents and was pleased to hear that it was a recent delivery of our Newsletter to their home which had let them know of the existence of the group and its monthly meetings.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on the Tuesday 8th of July 2014 were circulated and signed by JH as a true record.

3. Matters arising There were no matters arising other than those dealt with later in this meeting's agenda.

4. Newsletter & website update

In the absence of Paul Whitton (PW) of PW Computers, AK advised that website updates/additional member details were continuing to be passed to PW by AK and that the site continued to expand in content. AK also reminded the meeting that if Face book 'URLs' were provided to PW he could incorporate a similar link to a face book page such as the one which exists for our own face book account. With regard to the Newsletter JH said that we hoped to recommence the hardcopy edition in time for the October/November issue and also raised the possibility of us creating our own Newsletter rather than using the main Wings magazine as an outlet. JH explained that the purpose of the Newsletter was to provide an affordable means of advertising for small traders who for £10/month would be listed in the hardcopy member's directory and have the opportunity of being included in the main body of the Newsletter as a featured business from time to time. AK added that from a public perception angle the Newsletter & related website were intended to raise the profile of Clay Cross as a small market town where many goods and services are available and to spread this message to the surrounding villages such as Tupton, Wingerworth, North Wingfield and Ashover in order to encourage trade for the local economy.

5. Community Matters including 'Get growing initiative' and Future Town Development

Get growing initiative, in the absence of GC AK advised that the plants in the 'Parish Garden' on Market Street continued to thrive, and that the one casualty a plum tree would soon be replaced with an apple tree. The garden at The Community of Christ Church on Thanet Street continues to grow and LM asked if there was any possibility of establishing a garden on High Street. AK said the land close to Lloyds bank at the junction of Holmgate Road with Market Street was considered to be a possibility and CBe said she would endeavour to find out who owned this land in order to progress matters.

Continuing the theme of community matters CBe advised that the Rotary Club would like to organise a further 'Clay Cross has got Talent' competition and was looking to do this sometime towards the end of October /beginning of November. As we were jointly involved with promoting this competition last year CBe invited the group to participate this year too and it was agreed this would be a good idea as it would help raise funds and encourage community participation. CBe then left the meeting due to a further commitment elsewhere.

Residents David & Ann Cocking raised the point about the poor state of the land close to the path between Tesco and the Sharley Park Leisure Centre. Apparently the local authority owns the land but it is up for sale as a residential development site. In the meantime it was suggested that this could become a further garden area, possibly for the nearby Hospital.

With regard to the public meeting held on 18 July at the Social centre concerning the Alton ward closure at Clay Cross Hospital AK said the meeting was well attended by the local public and that there was no firm indication given by the assembled panel from the local NHS body to say the ward would definitely close. What was made clear was that health care delivery was changing and that there would be a greater emphasis on 'care in the community' which meant where possible patients would be encouraged with suitable support to receive care in their own homes rather than receive care in a hospital environment. In the closing remarks concerning the conjecture over the possible ward closure Natascha Engel MP commented that we needed to find a way in which the people of the Clay Cross area could have a meaningful way of giving opinions and hearing about what is happening.

6. New members joining and Treasurer report

AK advised that one further member had joined since the last meeting, The Cooking Pot, who are the cafe in The Mall at Market Street. AK distributed the Receipts & Payments account for the period 1 April 2014 to 12 August 2014 which showed an excess of payments over receipts of £365 and a balance in hand of £849. Of this balance £197 is ring fenced money relating to the 'Get Growing Initiative' leaving £652 in general funds. Currently we have an outstanding account payable to Wings for Newsletter issue 100 of £892, including the run-on copies we distribute independently, which is not covered by general funds in hand but should be affordable by the end of September. AK said that although we will have caught up on the outstanding account by the end of next month we are still not as yet in a financial position to meet an £892 bi-monthly cost for our hardcopy Newsletter based purely on Newsletter subscriptions.

7. Fundraising & Future Social Events.

The Clay Cross FC Fun day, as organised by North East Derbyshire District Council, is to go ahead as planned on 17 August. Prior to that JH is hosting a charity ball at 7.30pm this Friday 15 August at Bateman's Mill on behalf of Ashgate Hospice. Tickets are available from Bateman's Mill, cost £20 and include a buffet, casino and cocktail menu as well as live music see following link for further details <http://batemansmillhotel.co.uk/1368>

AK mentioned the possibility of a Christmas Market event possibly outside the job centre on Market Street. WM commented that the Rotary Club had used this site in the past for their events and that gazebos had been used by stallholders if the weather was wet.

8. Member information exchange. As far as we know the application to open a 'Bargain Booze' shop at Market Street is continuing to follow due process. CB reported that the former baby wear shop on Market Street had re-opened as a hairdressers and AK said that the former butchers shop operated by Mark Knowles was currently being renovated, presumably in readiness for re-occupation and that although the Santander Agency on Market Street was due to close today it would shortly reopen as Estate Agents 'Village Estates'.

9. Next Meeting Tuesday 9th of September 2014 6PM at Batemans Mill Hotel.

Meeting closed.