

**The Minutes of the meeting of North Walsham Chamber of Trade held on
Wednesday 14th May 2008**

Present; Colin Page, Nicholas Lee, Roger Buck, Mike Foster, Paula & David Audley, Chris Timms, Ian Stevensons, Heather DaCosta, Robert Dunham, Hazel Sadler, Sam Reynolds.

Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mike Parkinson a representative from the F.S.B.

Mike gave the Chamber an excellent talk on the benefits of joining the F.S.B and the success rates that they have achieved over the past years. If any one is interested in joining or would like further information I have this so do not hesitate to ask or call in at Country Pets.

1)Apologies

Andrew Hoyes, Julie Cameron, Chris Hargest, Daniel Doyle.

2)Minutes from previous meeting

These were signed as correct

3)Membership & Finance

To date we have 51 Members and the bank balance to date is £150.00. So far the chamber has got 10 requests for hanging baskets, Colin asked that as a town we should all make some contribution even if it means making individual floral displays.

4)Matters arising from previous meeting

a)Sainsbury's Car parking

After bringing this issue up with the council they have decided to terminate their arrangement with Sainsburys so therefore the car parks will only be used by the general public.

b)Fly Posters

This is an on going matter as it is complicated when the posters are put on privately owned businesses this is being looked into by the council

c)Gutters

When Nick visited all the banks to address this issue he was told that they have all been done

d)Christmas Fayre

After enquiring about this the council said they will look into it, they said if possible they could have traditional stalls running amongst the current ones.

e)Bags for life

We have looked into the possibility of buying cloth bags and selling them through the shops, and after research and pricing it doesn't seem that this would be feasible for us to do this as other shops in North Walsham are selling bags for life for 50p and £1 and we can't even buy them that cheap. A lot of customers already have got these sort of bags so therefore would probably not wish to buy any others.

We have noticed that more people are turning down carrier bags anyway and the only other thing we can do is use either paper ones or biodegradable but again this depends on cost. They are available to order. Prices are as follows:

Bio vest carriers ... 11x17x21 ... £19.95 per 1000 + VAT

... 12x18x24 ... £22.95 per 1000 + VAT

Kraft paper bags with paper handles ...10x15.5x12 ... £25.50 per 250 + VAT

If you have more than 1000 the cheaper they will be.

If you are interested in any of these bags please contact Steve at J&B Trading on 01692 536293

6)Publicity

The North Walsham Guides are now out. The chamber also now regularly advertises in the North Norfolk the paper comes to individual business and sorts out the adverts for each shop. Radio Norfolk are running a promotion on North Walsham to help promote the town if any one is interested they are offering discounts. The cost of this would be £99 plus a prize, for this you get 28 mentions in a day and will be the sponsor of the day. The Evening News are running a piece in North Walsham in two weeks time they are contacting businesses individually.

7) Pigeons

Chamber have received a letter from town council regarding the on going pigeon problem in North Walsham. They are getting a survey from Eco Lab about dealing with the problem, Eco lab can also advise individual shops on pigeon spikes etc...

8)Correspondence

a)Griffon Area Partnership

The Griffon area partnership have decided to establish a North Walsham Town Development Group. They will work towards shaping the future of North Walsham over the coming years. A longer term aim will be to consider the appointment of a Town Development manager. In the short term they will contribute some funding to finance the provision for an administrative development officer. to support the group. The Chamber have been asked to nominate two representatives one from a small business and one from a large one. Chris Timms said he will represent the small business and Colin will approach Roys as the large business.

b)Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights Group have written to the Chamber in the hope that the Chamber will be represented in this group. They have meetings approximately every month alternating between a working night and meeting night. Nicholas has agreed to join the group, if any one else would like to help please let Colin know.

c)Derelict building opposite Blakemans

The owners of the building have been served a notice order to tidy up the sight. They have started this by putting boards round it .

d) Security

The Chamber have been approached by a gentleman who has had a career in security wondering whether we have considered private security for the town. He would visit all individual shops through the night letting you know he has been. The cost for this would be £25 per shop per week. No one at the meeting was interested in this as they thought North Walsham was not really a high risk crime area and we do already have CCTV cameras.

e)Connexions

Helen Gordon who works in Connexions would like to come and meet business owners in the town. She has been invited to the next meeting to give a talk about her role with the young people in North Walsham.

9)Any Other Business

a)Nicholas suggested late night shopping evenings in the run up to Christmas. It would have to be well advertised. Any comments to Colin and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

b)The timing of meetings has been raised and all members at the meeting wished to keep the time of starting at 6pm as they all work in town and come straight from work.

10)Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 13th August at 6pm