

**Minutes of the AGM  
of the  
Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce  
held on  
Monday 12 February 2024**

**at 6.00pm  
in the  
The Wyatt Room, Wilfrid Noyce Centre**

**Present:**

John Taylor (JT) – Cornmeter – President	John Lloyd – Blue Dot Display
Matthew Pactat (MP) – Treasurer	Patsy Bell – Calico Curtains
Julie Holland – Wild Learning	Tim Henniker Parker – TiCa Photography
Janet Taylor – Cornmeter	Roger Coleman (RC) – Spinning Poodle
Alison Daniels (AD)– Secretary	Adam Boshoff (AB) – Seymours Estate Agent
Stefan Reynolds (SR)– Vantage Point	Pam Talbot – Godalming Trust
Tim Ostle (TO) – Charterhouse Enterprises	Laura Rivet – Laura Rivet HR
Brenda Baggott – Godalming Theatre Group	
Anthony Hobkinson & Mark Bradshaw – Make a difference with records	

	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Apologies for Absence	Kate Wheeler (GBH Law), Greg Holden (Temple Wealth), Jenna Hopkins (Downs Solicitors), Errol Bryce (Thyme for Tea), Tom Enser (Phyllis Tuckwell), John Guthrie (Hart Brown), Amanda & Penny (Godalming Travel), Nigel Cobb (Dentons Wealth), Ed Holliday (Godalming Town Council), Julie Noyce (Godalming podiatry), Kevin Depree (Godalming Deli)	
2. President's Welcome	The president welcomed members to the meeting	
3. Previous Minutes	The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved.	ALL
4. Previous minutes -Update on High Street	JT updated the meeting on latest businesses moving into the High Street:  Edinburgh Woollen Mill – Pizza Express pulled out & Coffee #1 moved in  M & Co building – bought by WBC but the two retail units are still empty, plans to have offices upstairs and 4 housing units at the rear. This will eventually provide WBC with an income stream.  Godalming Deli will be moving to the café premises in Angel Court.	
5. Vinyl for charity	Anthony Hobkinson & Mark Bradshaw gave a presentation about their charity which operates out of the premises in Queen Street called A Novel Idea. Their charity wants to “make a difference with records” raising funds for Catalyst a mental health charity for Surrey. Music makes people happy. They want to engage with the local community to raise awareness for Catalyst as well as raising funds. Target audience – retired people who love vinyl, new & young people discovering vinyl & collectors of rare records. Catalyst needs sponsors because certain government grants may not be available next year.	

	<p>Vinyl for charity raised £8k in its first year but hopes to double that figure this year. It needs help creating an online presence and several members present offered to assist with this. They need more volunteers so that the shop can be open longer. Need more donations of vinyl. It was suggested that they liaise with the rotary clubs for volunteers ,the Mayor’s charity for financial donations &amp; Ben’s Record shop in Guildford for donations of vinyl.</p> <p>For further details go to <a href="http://www.makeadifferencerecords.com">www.makeadifferencerecords.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:vinylforcharity@gmail.com">vinylforcharity@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p>6. Treasurer’s Report</p>	<p>MP reported on the current finances, highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership fees still lower than pre covid fees</li> <li>• 41 members in 2022; 52 members in 2023. fee. In 2024 we already have 51 paid up members , one business has moved away and two subs remain unpaid.</li> <li>• 2023 Food festival raised £3,840 but this was mainly as a result of the sponsorship of £4K. So far there is only one sponsor for 2024 of £2K.</li> <li>• However in 2024 we will be organising our second Classic Car Show and this year will be charging entrants &amp; receiving sponsorship.</li> <li>• Costs have been controlled. Largest expense the subsidisation of the networking events held both at lunchtimes and evenings.</li> </ul> <p>Surplus for the year £2,557</p> <p>Closing Cash Balance £13,427 plus Recoverable loan to BID of £5,000 due back Summer 2024.</p> <p>Comments from members –  “happy to pay more for our successful networking lunches.”  “could we use some of our surplus funds to organise training sessions for members, particularly homepreneurs.”</p>	
<p>7. BID UPDATE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The president invited Patsy Bell from the BID committee to update the meeting.</li> <li>• 51% businesses in the BID area voted for the BID so it will go ahead.</li> <li>• Businesses in the BID area will pay an extra 2% Business rates from April 2024 onwards. This should raise approx. £850k over 5 years.</li> <li>• The Godalming BID Company was incorporated on 9.2.24 with 2 directors and the directors are currently in the process of opening a bank account.</li> <li>• For a relatively small cost per business there is a huge pot of money to make Godalming prosperous and safe eg making Godalming a business destination, free town wifi, set up collaboration for Crime Prevention</li> <li>• Stakeholders will include WBC &amp; GTC but they will not control the board of 10 directors.</li> <li>• Next step – appoint a Town manager whose role will include obtaining sponsorship &amp; grants, reducing costs for businesses by say arranging a town/borough waste contract with one provider and obtaining a lower price per business.</li> <li>• The business plan for the BID is available on WBC’s website</li> <li>• It’s been hard work over the last five years but worthwhile.</li> </ul>	

<p>8. President's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 Food Festival – thanks to GTC for their help for this event which was started many years ago by the Chamber.</li> <li>• 2024 Classic car show will create revenue to the Chamber. Last year we did not charge entrants but had set up costs of £716.</li> <li>• Networking lunchtime events – thanks to Alison Daniels &amp; Kate Wheeler for organising these events which will continue this year on a bi monthly basis.</li> <li>• Looking forward to our next summer's evening event at Charterhouse on 4.7.24.</li> <li>• The Chamber meets with Waverley BC on a regular basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These have varying degrees of success</li> <li>○ Crown Court Consultation – the Chamber successfully led the opposition against building on the car park.</li> <li>○ WBC want to increase car parking charges by 18% despite their pledge to keep prices the same for three years. Jeremy Hunt on the case. Should we organise a protest outside WBC's offices?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>"I was elected President (again) in February 2020 for one year only"! But it's now time for me to step down. However I will continue as vice president for one year only. I would like to say thanks to the committee for all of their support."</p> <p>The President stood down.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to JT who has always stepped in to help the town. Godalming should be extremely grateful for his support.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>9. Appointment of officers and committee members</p>	<p>The Committee's objectives this year include finding new committee members to replace committee members next year. We need fresh blood because most of the present committee have been serving for 10 – 15 years.</p> <p>Nominations were proposed and seconded and the following were unanimously voted to serve for the following year:</p> <p>Officers:</p> <p>Roger Coleman – President John Taylor – Vice president Matthew Pactat – Treasurer Alison Daniels – Secretary</p> <p>Committee members:</p> <p>Adam Boshoff Tim Ostle Stefan Reynolds – Classic car show Kate Wheeler - networking Vicky Wootton – social media</p>	<p>If any other members would like to join the Committee they are most welcome to join us.</p>
<p>10. AOB</p>	<p>SR gave an update on the current arrangements for the Classic Car show – Sunday 7 July 2024 – same day as the Food Festival.</p> <p>Food stands – Hog roast, Pizza oven, the Star beer tent &amp; Coffee van.</p> <p>The Rotary Club is raising funds for the Royal Surrey Cancer Unit and we will be making a donation to them in return for their assistance with marshalling.</p> <p>One other charity stall – Prostate awareness.</p> <p>Charterhouse could organise childrens entertainment</p> <p>New banner (without dates) to be purchased from Blue Dot</p> <p>More sponsors are welcome.</p>	

	<p>Godalming Trust – Pam Talbot will give RC the dates of the Saturday guided walks to put on the chamber’s website.</p> <p>Godalming Theatre Group – Brenda Baggott thanked the Chamber for spreading the word about the GTG’s productions</p> <p>The meeting ended at 19.20 followed by networking.</p>	
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