

**Meeting Minutes**  
**11<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Present**

Rob Angell, Xpressofix (Chair) (RA)  
Tanya Levy, Levant (Vice-Chair) (TL)  
Alex Ballinger, Bailey Hill Bookshop (AB)  
Heather Burch, Heather's Flowers (HB)  
Nicki Caro, beauty therapist (NC)  
Angela Crowley, Old Mill (AC)  
Nick Crowley, The Wonderful Garden Company (NCr)  
Lucas Hollweg, pop-up food (LH)  
Dave Marsh, Dave Marsh Hardware (DM)  
Deb Pateman, Secrets (DP)  
Lucie Reader, pop-up food (LR)  
Jane Shoebridge, fabrics and tours to India (JS)  
Penny Steiner, Castle Cary Town Council (PS)

**Apologies**

Helen Higgins, Lighthouse Payroll (Treasurer)  
Tim Cole Downes, architect  
George Cronk, George's Greengrocer  
Claire Downes, web designer  
Jock Scott, Scott Studios  
Sally Snook, Clanville Manor

| Agenda Item  | Action / Commitment   |
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| <p><b>Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Big Christmas</b> Elsewhere, similar events are run by the local chamber of commerce. Need to decide how Cary Chamber can be more involved.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>NC</b> and <b>NCr</b> to attend wash-up meeting on 22 Jan (7pm at The George).<br/><b>ALL</b> with feedback / ideas to email <a href="mailto:nick@thewonderfulgardencompany.co.uk">nick@thewonderfulgardencompany.co.uk</a></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chamber Newsletter</b> General agreement that first issue looked and read well. Thanks to Lucas and Lucie. Agreed should continue to be circulated to all businesses and be posted on the Chamber website.</li> </ul> <p>Town website to have a para about</p> | <p><b>RA</b> to add DM, HB and JS emails to the list and circulate 'bounces' to attendees to see if can update.</p> <p><b>LH</b> to speak to <b>NCr</b> re thoughts.</p> <p><b>RA</b> to write para for town website,</p>             |

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| <p>the Chamber and link to the Chamber website. Deb to feature in next newsletter which needs to go out early Jan to give notice for the social.</p>  | <p>pass to Sally Snook and provide link to Chamber website.</p>   |
| <p><b>Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We now have 19 members and a total of £704 from membership fees.</li> <li>• Royal Canin are keen to work collaboratively.</li> <li>• Emily Estate has agreed to attend a meeting early next year.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>PS</b> to firm up date with Emily Estate.</p>   |
| <p><b>Cary Business Listing / Info Pack</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCr &amp; LH proposed a business listing booklet with the production quality of the Frome Annual but in an A6 format with fold-out map.</li> <li>• There will be some cross over with other listings / websites but will be free for all businesses (inc sole traders) with an enhanced listing for members.</li> <li>• Need to move forward quickly as houses already being marketed / sold.</li> <li>• Could tie in with Totally Locally.</li> <li>• Lifespan and reach need further thought.</li> </ul> | <p><b>NCr / LH</b> to think who need to establish sub-group (eg Pithers Yard designers).</p> <p><b>LH</b> to draft a form of words asking for people to get in touch and then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• newsletter (<b>LH</b>)</li> <li>• Town Crier (<b>RA</b>)</li> <li>• BV Business Group (<b>NCr</b>)</li> <li>• Castle Cary Real News (<b>NC</b> to discuss with Judi Morison)</li> <li>• Together (<b>PS</b>)</li> </ul> <p>Plus a notice to go in shops with boards / good networks – eg Heather’s Flowers, Oxford Mill, bookshop, post office, Co-op</p> <p><b>PS / TL</b> to pass on design contacts to Nick.</p> <p><b>AC</b> to get an idea of print costs.</p> |

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| <p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>EAT Castle Cary</b><br/> Concerns expressed about road closures, deliveries and customer parking as one of busiest days in year for some businesses.<br/> Organisers will be attending Chamber meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan to discuss these and other issues.<br/> We should ask other chambers where have already hosted EAT festivals to see how they've dealt with similar issues.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Social gathering</b><br/> Agreed it should be 2-hour drinks and nibbles on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at Levant. Maximum budget set at £200 but members offered their services for free.</p> </li> </ul>  | <p><b>RA</b> to email key concerns to EAT so they can come prepared.</p> <p><b>RA</b> to check EAT website and contact local chambers.</p> <p><b>TL &amp; LH</b> to plan further and inform members of help required.</p> |
| <p><b>Projects / Initiatives</b><br/> Chamber should compile a list of projects to improve its profile and provide sponsorship opportunities for larger businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Park Pond</b><br/> Kevin to be encouraged to put in a proposal to the Chamber to buy this and clean it up.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Great British High Street</b><br/> This is a government-backed scheme offering tools and resources as well as awards (see <a href="http://www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk">www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk</a>). May link well with / duplicate Totally Locally. We could reach out to Crickhowell in Wales to learn how they went from a struggling high street to the Welsh champion.</p> </li> </ul> | <p><b>RA</b> to add links to resources such as Totally Locally and Great British High Street to Chamber website.</p> <p><b>LH</b> to flag in newsletter.</p> <p><b>RA</b> to contact local chamber in Crickhowell.</p>    |

**AOB**

- **Next meetings**

Tuesday 15th January (main focus EAT)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Agreed we may need a good-sized venue for meetings where EAT / Emily Estate are attending.

**TL** to book Shambles / Methodist Hall.

**DM & HB** to encourage other high street retailers to attend January meeting.