

**Meeting Minutes**  
**16<sup>th</sup> April 2019**



**Present**

- Rob Angell, Xpressofix (Chair) (RA)
- Claire Brooker, Bailey Hill Bookshop (CB)
- Nick Crowley, The Wonderful Garden Company (NCr)
- Luke Doig, Home Café (LD)
- Lucas Hollweg, pop-up food (LH)
- Tanya Levy, Levant (Vice-Chair) (TL)
- Pek Peppin, self-catering accommodation (PP)
- Lucie Reader, pop-up food (LR)
- Jane Shoebridge, textiles and tours to India (JS)
- David Simon, David Simon Contemporary / Article (DS)
- Lucy Simon, David Simon Contemporary / Article (LS)
- Penny Steiner, Castle Cary Town Council (PS)
- Chris Walker, Bakehouse (CW)

**Apologies**

- Nicki Caro, skin care specialist
- Helen Higgins, Lighthouse Payroll (Treasurer)

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action/commitment</b>
<b>The Cary Independent</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCr has started a spreadsheet of the business listings and sent out a MailChimp requesting information</li> <li>• LH has gathered some info on sole traders</li> <li>• Agreed geographical area is Millbrook surgery catchment area but there was some discussion about surrounding villages</li> <li>• Articles from Sally Snook, Emily Estate, LS, Charles Dowding and Anna from the horsehair factory.</li> <li>• LH to take on role of editor.</li> <li>• Will feature a map and known dates (eg carnival)</li> <li>• If businesses come forward, may still be able to hit June deadline.</li> </ul>	<p>NCr to action FB post</p> <p>All to encourage others to respond</p> <p>NCr, Mark Matcham, LH, PS and LS to have another meeting</p>
<b>How to decide which projects to support</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of ideas including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- voting on individual ideas</li> <li>- waiting till the Chamber has found its feet and then ask for submissions</li> <li>- developing funding criteria</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ought to consider what our role is as a chamber and guard against overlapping with role of town council               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- should we be a grant-giving body or just promote businesses in our marketing material</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Perhaps our priority for this year should be encouraging business to participate in Cary in Bloom               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- eg run a competition for best-dressed shop</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- would tie in well with opening of Emily Estate</li> <li>- used to be a competition run by Gardening Society so opportunity to collaborate</li> <li>- businesses with wholesale accounts could assist other businesses</li> <li>- hanging baskets need watering</li> <li>- florists and NCr could sponsor prizes.</li> <li>• History Society is developing a system to provide small grants for historic projects.</li> <li>• Town Council about to produce its own grant-giving policy.</li> </ul>	<p>TL to speak to Erica to find out more</p> <p>RA to put on agenda for next meeting</p> <p>PS to pass on to RA</p>
<p><b>Information / benefits for members only</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber now has 37 members.</li> <li>• Currently all info goes to everyone on the mailing list (118) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emily Estate preview is first offer limited to members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Somerset Chambers of Commerce offer support and events to chambers and chamber members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- free to affiliate</li> <li>- need to look at programme to see when we can benefit from talks etc</li> <li>- may be opportunities for members to go to events free and for non-members to pay.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review in 3 months</li> </ul>	<p>RA to arrange affiliation and find out about programme, resources etc (including advice / criteria for funding projects)</p>
<p><b>Emily Estate private invite</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money must be in the bank to sign up for a visit.</li> <li>• Current application form cannot be completed electronically.</li> <li>• LR to flag paid members on MailChimp and RA to update website from there.</li> </ul>	<p>TL to ask her IT person to seek a solution.</p> <p>LR and RA</p>
<p><b>EAT festival update</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chamber supports the festival and is looking forward to it.</li> <li>• There are pockets of negativity towards the festival but everything has been done as per legal requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- issues raised currently with legal dept of SSDC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chamber members will be invited to air their views at the next meeting to enable them to influence how it might work next year.</li> </ul>	<p>LR to include in mailout with minutes.</p> <p>RA to put on agenda for next meeting.</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment must continue to be a priority.</li> <li>• 11th June for next social event and launch of Cary Independent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shambles reserved under Penny's name</li> <li>- members to be offered one free drink</li> <li>- non-members to be charged £5, redeemable against membership fees</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Andrew Hanson, Somerset Education Business Partnership, would like to come and talk to Chamber members.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL to try to get 3 more members before the next meeting.</p> <p>TL to book in own name.</p> <p>TL / LS to come back to next meeting with budget and ideas.</p> <p>TL to find out about fees and quality of scheme.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A link to the South West Growth Hub (<a href="https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk">https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk</a>) should go in the minutes and next newsletter.</li><li>• Next meeting 14th May at David Simon Contemporary.</li></ul>	LR
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