

Meeting Minutes
14th May 2019



Present

- Rob Angell, Xpressofix (Chair) (RA)
- Tanya Levy, Levant (Vice-Chair) (TL)
- Helen Higgins, Lighthouse Payroll (Treasurer) (HH)
- Claire Brooker, Bailey Hill Bookshop (CB)
- Nicki Caro, skin care specialist (NC)
- Nick Crowley, The Wonderful Garden Company (NCr)
- Laleh Dastgerdi, Sparkford Hall (LD)
- Lucas Hollweg, pop-up food (LH)
- 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)
- Sally Snook, Slow Farming (SS)
- Penny Steiner, Castle Cary Town Council (PS)
- Chris Walker, Bakehouse (CW)

Agenda Item	Action/commitment
<p>The Cary Independent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCr, LH and PS met. Progress being made and listing growing but not getting tradespeople. Editorial also going slowly with some – including The Newt and Habitat Aid – who’ve not yet responded. ● Catchment area still under consideration. ● Unlikely to meet June deadline and each issue likely to cost in region of £5k so need to get advertising / sponsorship. ● Could put listing on the website as an encouragement for joining and paying for advertising. ● May be worth exploring whether hiring someone to pull the advertising together would make sense financially. ● Rob still waiting for a mock-up. 	<p>Tradespeople:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ALL to speak to any they know to try to get this snowballing - RA to send NCr sole traders from original list <p>NCr to speak to Fiona Morrison. NCr to provide this week.</p>
<p>Update on next social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Market House booked for 11th June. ● Agreed needs to be a social networking event and an incentive to join, perhaps using the reputations of those involved as a draw. ● Previous suggestion included members being offered one free drink and non-members being charged £5, redeemable against membership fees. 	<p>TL, LS and LD to plan</p>
<p>EAT feedback</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EAT has distributed a questionnaire to high street businesses. ● An estimated 8,000 visitors during the event. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informal feedback suggests people in the town thoroughly enjoyed it and it was a good opportunity for businesses to promote themselves. ● Does the Chamber want to support this being repeated next year? Agreed should design and circulate our own questionnaire so that Members have a voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to include choice of which day of the week it falls, placement of stalls, what the benefits were - if on Sunday, could include Bailey Hill ● Chamber needs to be an official source for information for the Press with a clear strategy to follow if the Press contacts businesses independently. ● EAT attending the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday. 	<p>Chamber to be point of contact with EAT and to work with them to improve the event.</p> <p>LR & CB to draft ?aire and send to RA for approval.</p>
Cary in Bloom	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TL contacted Erica Holt of the Castle Cary Gardening Association. Each year they award The Jubilee Shield to the business in Cary with the most outstanding floral display. TL said the Chamber would be happy to work alongside them to encourage take-up. ● SSDC has previously provided hanging baskets at a reduced price. ● Michelle at Burns the Bread is keen to work on this. ● Various Members / others could offer support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CW for advice - Heather Burch, George Cronk and Julian Shave for plants - LS plus others with wholesale accounts - Julian Shave for watering 	<p>DS to promote the competition in the next newsletter, including a picture of CW's shopfront.</p> <p>CW to find out if can still get baskets from SSDC.</p> <p>HH & LS to meet with George, Heather, Julian and Michelle.</p>
Somerset Chamber of Commerce Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cary now affiliated to the Somerset Chamber. ● All events listed on their website so need to add a link to our own. ● Plus could include regular examples in our newsletter. 	<p>RA to add link to website.</p> <p>DS to include examples in newsletters.</p>
Small office space in Cary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mishergas, a business start-up, is looking for small office space on the high street. None known about in the room. ● Agreed the next newsletter should ask everyone if they have office space to rent with responses going to hello@castlecarychamber.org.uk 	<p>RA to reply to Mishergas.</p> <p>DS to include in next newsletter</p>
Cary Town Annual meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taking place at 7pm on Tuesday 21st May at Caryford Hall. ● Requires a presence from the Chamber and good opportunity to promote. 	<p>LS, NCr & NC to attend.</p> <p>RA to drop postcards in to NCr.</p>
The Newt entrance costs / terms	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirmed that cost is £15 per adult to the end of December. ● The Newt attended last Sunday's vintage market and gave out flower crowns. ● NCr had his first sale from a Newt visitor! ● SS has meat and eggs in the farm shop there. 	
AOB & next meeting dates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request from Big Christmas for £200 for Fairtrade chocolate for Father Christmas. ● LR will not have time over the summer to do the newsletter. DS to take over. ● Next meeting dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chamber social on 11th June - meetings on 2nd July and 3rd September at David Simon Contemporary 	LR & DS to meet.