



LOSTWITHIEL BUSINESS GROUP

AGM Minutes

25 MARCH 2024 / 19:00 PM / The Royal Oak, Lostwithiel

2023/24 COMMITTEE ATTENDEES

Russell Cosway (Chair), Guy Molyneux (Treasurer), Jeff Pearce (Communications)

Absent Committee Members:

Kat Smith (Membership Secretary), Vice-Chair (Vacant), Secretary (Vacant), Events (Vacant)

ATTENDEES (22)

Guy & Rebecca Molyneux (MKM Extrusions), Steve Wales (Deja Vu Antiques), Jordan & Cerys Cook (Restormel Kitchen), Alice Collyer (Alice in Scandiland), Jeff Pearce, Claire & Jamie Alexander (Stick Antiques and Vintage), Clive Coombe (Dower House Antiques), Hayley Toms (Lilyboo), Denise Watts (Watts Trading), Emma Jesshop (Bellamama Deli), Jacqueline Rappaport (Hagstone Pottery), David Guiterman (Lostfest and LTC), Sarah Lamb (Lambs), Steve Lyng (Queen Street Shutters), Amanda (The Little Ice Cream Shop), Adam Eastham (Kernowforno), Catherine Murphy, Ken Robinson, Russell Cosway (Gydeline & LCA)

Apologies for absence

Kat Smith (Membership Secretary)

Minutes of the last General Meeting - 5 March 2024

Approved with no comments.

Chair: The actions requested at the last meeting in relation to the road closure, including engaging with the press were all completed to mixed responses from the high street.

Finance Report - Treasurer

Finances remain in good shape and at the date of the meeting we have £9,720.03 on hand. There are several points to note:

1. No further subscriptions since the last report
2. No newsletter advertising income will be received
3. Based on the membership of 105, forecast revenue is £2,600, if the membership rate remains unchanged
4. Approximately 55% of members pay by Direct Debit, the remaining by standing order, cheque and cash
5. The Next Committee will need to discuss funding and income opportunities.

Chair's Report

It's been a tricky year to say the least:

- Recruitment of the new Doctor in the Medical Practice
- We lost Debenie from editing the newsletter and it has been transferred to Palace Printers who are editing it. LBG are, therefore, no longer taking advertising revenue. We thank Debenie for her long contribution to keep that newsletter at the high standard
- The Community Centre has been under a bit of a financial challenge, especially with the difficulties of running a 40-year-old building that hasn't had the maintenance it should
- The road closure in the town due to a fallen wall had a massive impact for four weeks. We certainly learnt a few lessons that a building issue can bring a town to its knees
- The Phantom pothole filler which was quite an interesting social discussion.

- Very disappointing anti-Semitic graffiti that appeared which is just not the town that I know
- We've had the controversial planning application at Gillyflower once again declined
- We've also had the change in the railway lines recently, and the closure of, what I didn't realise was, the oldest working Signal Box on the network. Options are being considered about the sidings as to whether that can be used as parking, but there's a financial challenge to be faced
- The closure of the Sweet Magnolias shop and their window dressing will be a sad loss to the town because it was one of the great windows on Fore Street. Restormel Kitchen announced that they are taking over the shop front and will maintain a strong window presence in the town.

We threw the Gin Festival in June last year. That was a bit of a challenge for Jeff because I fell ill and became useless. So I have to thank Jeff very much for stepping up again and running that one along with Guy and Rebecca for running the bar and all the work that goes into preparing. I'd also like to mention Richard for arranging the music as well. The costs of that event, rocketed; we previously used to be able to turn a surplus on the Gin Festival, but with it being at the peak of the cost living rises, not having as many Gin companies, and the cost of the music much higher, it wasn't quite as rewarding financially to the group as it used to be. The event was generally successful despite this.

Then we had the Dickensian late night shopping event. Preparing the 78 Christmas trees is where I thank David Guiterman who, in the tipping rain, trimmed them to a size that vaguely fits into our holders. I personally would like to thank Emma Jessop as I wasn't functioning fully, and she helped me immensely. Then there is Hayley for arranging the crafts along with my wife, Sarah (I will have to minute and tell her she's been mentioned).

DavidG also stepped in to marshal traffic because I missed the deadline for the road closure and he managed to keep traffic from going down Fore Street brilliantly. Then there's Claire for doing the gifts, Jamie for also getting his trailer out and doing the trees because we had to ship that all over the place. Jacqueline once again, the Grotto was amazing and Nick Warwick, our Santa, was delighted to have been involved but knackered after a three hour shift. Of course we had Mick doing the designs, and Roy for the printing. Even with the troublesome preparation timescale, a train strike and flooded parade the event went very well.

This event does negatively affect our finances, particularly with the trees costing around £900 and £650 for the Stilt Walkers, who were not as good as previous years. We do pay for some entertainment but we do get income from the craft stalls and food and drink vendors. Santa's gifts and decorations are also a significant cost.

The Parade Christmas Tree is really nothing to do with the Group, but we do get blamed for not decorating it. This needs to be resolved this year with the Rotary and maybe the Town Council. (Group Discussion about potential funding opportunities)

I'd like to thank Guy, Kat (who isn't here), and Jeff for their continuation on the Committee. It's been quite a difficult year because with a weakened Committee this group struggles; if the Committee isn't big enough we can't be resilient; if you lose one that becomes quite telling. I have been encouraged and had some great feedback from people saying that they'd be willing to step up to some of the roles.

From my perspective, I keep on hearing the phrase "there used to be a great community spirit in this town". I think everyone's a bit down trodden and beaten up from events and cost of living rise, but it's usually the case that we show our real strength in adversity, so maybe this is the time when

we can pull the group together and re-invigourate that old community feeling.

Election of the Committee

Chairperson

Nominee	Proposer	Second	Votes
Adam Eastham	Emma J	Alice C	Unanimous

Vice-Chairperson

Nominee	Proposer	Second	Votes
Emma Jesshop	Hayley T	Jeff P	Unanimous

Treasurer

Nominee	Proposer	Second	Votes
Guy Molyneux	David G	Alice C	Unanimous

Secretary

Nominee	Proposer	Second	Votes
Catherine Murphy	Emma J	Adam E	Unanimous

Membership Secretary (shared role)

Nominee	Proposer	Second	Votes
Denise Watts	Guy M	Jacqueline R	Unanimous
Kat Smith	Guy M	Jacqueline R	Unanimous

Communications Officer

Committee to discuss the future of this role - Comms is very big and not just social media

Nominee	Proposer	Seconded	Votes
Proposal: Authorise the committee to amend and appoint to his role	Russell C	Emma J	Unanimous

(The new chairperson took over the meeting)

Events coordinator (Share role)

Nominee	Proposer	Seconded	Votes
Hayley Tomms	Russell C	Denise W	Unanimous
Russell Cosway	Hayley T	Jeff P	Unanimous

Gin Festival

Gin Festival sub-committee formation - 29 June 2024)

Proposal (AdamE) : Place the Gin Festival on hold this year due to new committee and time restraints, but plan to undertake something similar next year (Seconded: Russell C ; Votes: Abstained 2, For 17)

JeffP to communicate the cancellation positively to the Gin companies and others who have been communicated with on the date

Dickensian date

Chair: Russell: Propose: Hayley T ; Seconded: Emma J

Support Offered during the meeting from:

- Steve L - General support
- Emma J - Food Vendors
- Hayley T - Craft Stalls
- David G - Trees

Discussion on "What is Dickensian?" Community event, Late night shopping, Thank you to customers, market place,

Will we lose traders and food vendors if moved to 12 December 2024?
Possibly as it's late in the crafters season.

Challenge with the Church Lane closure

Proposal to change the date:

- Date of the 5th December - Votes: 4
- Date of the 12th December - Votes: 7 (PASSED)
- Undecided - Votes: 5

AOB:

(Ken) Car parking - who is the contact for the Car Parking on Town Team?

(David) Gave update on the car parking in the railway sidings

(DeniseW) Growing artistic community - can we create a section for artists and makers and for Wellbeing practitioners

- (AdamE) Committee to discuss
- (Jacqueline) Offered to do an artist column for the newsletter

(Sarah L) - Is the next meeting Committee only?

- (AdamE) Yes, General meetings for all members - 4 each year

(GuyM) Can we get a 3 month meeting in the diary - and use the Royal Oak again?

- (AdamE) We will arrange after the Committee has met in April

(Rebecca's) Requested a link to the LBG Constitution on the website

- <https://www.lostwithiel.org.uk/documents/Lostwithiel%20Business%20Group%20Constitution.pdf>