

Bromyard & District Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Minutes of Meeting held at the Falcon Hotel, Broad Street, Bromyard

2nd May 2018

David James (Chairman) welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the speaker, Sarah of Sarah Thomas Flowers in Bromyard.

Sarah Thomas Flowers

Sarah said she had always been interested in flowers and in August, she will have been trading for 5 years. She had originally worked at an Estate Agents, and later took a floristry course at Pershore, after a break bringing up her family. She was a local girl, coming from a family of shop keepers in the Malvern/Worcester area.

Unlike supermarket loose bunches of flowers with little greenery, Sarah likes to produce a display where 'the bee could go round and see each flower' and she tries to source the more unusual varieties not always available in supermarkets. Although she could produce bouquets' for customers calling into the shop, she prefers to make up displays to order, for birthdays, weddings and funerals. The flowers for a funeral were the last gift anyone could give for the person who had died, so she was keen to do her best to meet family requests for floral displays.

As she was talking, Sarah managed to produce a most beautiful bouquet of flowers which was much admired. A most interesting speaker and a talented lady whose enthusiasm for her work shone through as she talked.

Chamber Business

Treasurer's Report

Now that the Bromyard Lighting Committee had opened a new bank account, a letter was needed to formally close down the previous lighting account. David Grant, for the lighting committee, was in agreement with this. Claire would send forms and information to the secretary.

We had received a refund from Western Power, for an electricity supply that was no longer being used.

It was agreed that as Treasurer, Claire would keep copies of the bank accounts, which needed to be retained for 7 years.

Membership Secretary's Report

Silvia reported that we currently had 38 paid up members.

Results from Survey

Phil had set up an on-line survey, following the talk by Alfie Best of Wyldecrest which had given useful insights into our members' interests. Of particular concern were car parking, toilet facilities, signage and empty commercial buildings. Phil to pass survey results to the town clerk.

Website

Phil had done a lot of work to develop the website and invited all to visit the site at: bromyardchamberofcommerce.co.uk

He asked members let him have articles and information about their business, which could receive a spotlight on the website.

Any other Business

At the meeting on 6th September, Pete Andrews had agreed that Chamber members could have a free advertisement in Bromyard.info magazine for their business. Clare to raise this with Bromyard.info.

Festivals and Events

Art Walk, 7th – 8th July

In addition to the galleries displaying local artwork, David and Sylvia had been visiting shops to check if they would be happy to display a model bird in their windows for families to identify. There had been a good response and most traders were happy to do this.

Speed Festival – 13th May

This be held at Shelsey Walsh at the new date of Sunday 13th May. Next year the event would be held in Bromyard. The Bringsty Grand Prix would now be held on 9th June.

Heritage Trail

The Grand opening had been held on 22nd April and new information boards had been put up to give visitors information about the town and its heritage. Trail leaflets had also been printed.

Royal British Legion Events

On 21st October, the Legion would be planting artificial poppies along the by-pass. The Legion were looking for local people to help make and plant the poppies. On 11th November, Armistice Day, there would be a Poppy Festival in St Peter's church. There was concern about the pot holes in roads on the route, which would pose a possible danger to marchers. Roger Page to pass comments to Bromyard Council. RBL would also contact the Council.

Town Criers Festival

This will be held on Saturday 5th May, 11a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Bromyard Christmas Lights

New flags had been bought using donations from the Scarecrow Festival.

Any other Business

Temporary signage was needed during festivals advising of car parking and toilets. Costing had been obtained for 16 – 20 signs. It was agreed that the Chamber would arrange for these to be printed with the Chamber logo.

Rowden House were holding an open day on 9th June with raffle.

Whitegates Care Home were looking for people who could give talks to residents.

The new signage on the bypass, provided by the Chamber, had met with favourable comment and it was hoped this would help direct visitors to the town.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 6th June, at the Falcon Hotel, Bromyard, starting at 7.30 p.m.