

Bromyard and District Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of meeting held on 7 November 2018, at the Falcon, Bromyard

1. David James welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the speaker, Tristan Lewis from Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors.
2. Tristan explained that he deals with clients in the Bromyard and area. Originally the firm in Bromyard had been called Beaumont Solicitors, but this firm had merged with Lanyon Bowdler several years ago. Trevor specialised in Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney, Tax Planning and Estate Planning for private clients.
 - a) **Wills** - Tristan stressed the need for people to make a will, to keep it updated and to discuss plans with relatives and friends. If you don't make a will you will have no say in what happens after you have gone. Money, land and possessions will be dealt with under the rules of intestacy, which may well not follow your wishes for what happens after your death.
 - b) **Lasting Powers of Attorney** – These need to be registered if they relate to financial affairs and can take several weeks for the registration to come through. They can be used immediately if you choose or can come into force if you are judged to be incapable of managing your own affairs.

Chamber members had several questions for Tristan, following the talk and appreciated his advice on both wills and lasting powers of attorney.

David James thanked Tristan for a most interesting and relevant talk to Chamber members. He also expressed thanks, on behalf of the Chamber for Lanyon Bowdler's kind donation of a Christmas tree for the town square.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting** had been circulated and were approved.
4. **Chairman's Report** – David James reported that he had attended a Bromyard Council meeting, which had included a report on local policing by Constable Meek. Temporary toilets had been put up in the Rowberry Street car-park and it was hoped that the permanent ones would be back in use before Christmas.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Clare confirmed the balance of the account, which included monies for the Christmas tree.
6. **Update on local festivals**
 - a. **Christmas Lights** – weekly meetings had been held in the run-up to the event and there had been a good exchange of ideas and lots of enthusiasm. Two new set pieces would be included in the lighting display. This year we would be having live reindeer, bands playing and carol singing in the square, as well as the usual procession with Father Christmas and the switch on ceremony itself. Leaflets had been printed and distributed, with a good take up on advertising. The Chamber and Lighting Committee worked very hard to make this event happen and it offered an excellent opportunity for traders, as so many people came into the town.
 - b. **Remembrance Day Parade** – 11th November. Janet Brodie Murphy reported on the plans for the parade and confirmed that the poppies planted on the Bromyard by-pass would be left up for visitors to see, for at least 2 weeks after the Light's Switch-on event. She wanted to thank all businesses who had displayed caps in their windows, remembering soldiers who had died.

7. Any other business

- a. David Morris spoke about the suggested weight limit restrictions and new routes for traffic on Bromyard roads. Although buses would be exempt from the regulations, roads on the proposed routes would need upgrading to be suitable for all traffic. David said he would appreciate Town Council and Chamber support by representation to Herefordshire Council. Pete Andrews confirmed that the Town Council had been pushing for changes for the past ten years and if the weight restrictions stopped HGV traffic through the town it would be a good thing.
 - b. David Grant said that Visit Herefordshire offered regular meetings and courses of interest to tourism and wondered if we should set up a Bromyard Chamber sub-group to cover the Tourism and Leisure businesses. To be discussed at next general meeting.
8. **AGM** The next meeting would be the AGM to be held on 5th December at the Falcon, starting at 7.30 p.m.
9. **Next General Meeting** – Date to be confirmed.