

Bromyard Chamber of Commerce
Minutes of Meeting, 2nd October 2019, held in the Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

Chairman's Report

A new business, The Beauty Retreat had opened in Bromyard, but Bob Craddock's shop was closing down and his neighbour Frank Nuttall's premises remained closed as Frank was unwell.

In December, we would be holding our AGM, and nominations were sought for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Engagement Co-Ordinator. The current post holders for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary had indicated that this did not wish to stand again.

Treasurer's Report

No significant change to accounts.

Membership Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

Events and Festivals

Royal British Legion – Poppy Parade on 8th November. The Pied Piper Children's Procession in remembrance of wartime evacuees, would start from the Conquest Theatre at 8.15 a.m. to walk to St Peter's Church. Vanessa Redgrave and Lord Alfred Dubs would be attending the event.

Bromyard Firework Display – 16th November, starting at 5.30 p.m. at Bromyard Football Club

Bromyard Christmas Lights – Switch on 23rd November.

Leaflets had been distributed to local companies, seeking sponsorship and advertising space in the brochure. A significant amount of sponsorship had now been obtained. It was hoping to include a street market and a lantern parade as part of the event. Brian Johnson would be switching on the lights this year and all agreed that this was a good choice in view of all the work he had done over the years.

Mission Statement

A discussion was held on our mission statement and how it reflected our current aims.

- 1. Represent local businesses in Bromyard and the surrounding area to Local and National Government and Administrative Bodies*
- 2. Nurture new businesses and support the growth of existing ones.*
- 3. Promote the unique value of Bromyard and the local area. 'A traditional English town set in beautiful Herefordshire Countryside.'*
- 4. Facilitate regular meetings and talks, where members can get together to share experience, support and knowledge.*
- 5. Provide up-to-date and relevant information via the Chamber website.*
- 6. Calendar of events and local news of interest to members available on the Chamber website.*

7. Identify and support funding and grant opportunities to establish or grow a business

It was agreed that the needs of businesses had changed since the formation of the Chamber in 1938. Although Bromyard still had several individual shops and significant industry, many business people now worked from home and did not need a premises in town. Much support for businesses was available on line and through organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses. The Chamber continued to represent local interests and events and several Chamber members were on the local Council. For our July Meeting we had invited Eat, Sleep, Live Herefordshire to give a presentation and this had been well attended by accommodation providers and those involved in the tourist industry.

Chamber Dinner

This would be held on 24th November, at 12.30 p.m. when we would be looking forward the usual excellent dinner at the Falcon Hotel. Bromyard. Menus were circulated and bookings to made direct with the Falcon. Price £21 for 3 courses and coffee.

Chamber Awards

We would be presenting awards at our Chamber Dinner:

- Outstanding Voluntary Service
- Long Established Business
- Chairman's Award

Members were asked for nominations for the first two awards.

Date of Next Meeting

This would be held on 6th November at the Falcon Hotel, starting at 7.30 p.m. The visit to Micron Sprayers would now be held at a later date.