

Bromyard and District Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of meeting held on 5th September at the Falcon, Bromyard

1. David James welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Tony Burt to talk about the Bromyard Speed Festival.

Bromyard Speed Festival - Tony explained that the ideas of the speed festival was first conceived in 2012 as a chance to celebrate Bromyard's history. The local council gave support and a grant towards the festival.

The first Speed Festival was held in 2016 and involved 120 vehicles including the original Blue-Bird. Up to 2,000 visitors enjoyed the event and good trade was enjoyed by the shops and catering businesses in the town.

The event was repeated in 2017, attracting even more visitors and vintage vehicles included the Beast of Turin.

It was decided that in future the Speed Festival would be held every two years in the Town, so in 2018 the event was held at Shelsey Walsh. This event attracted 140 vehicles and gave an opportunity for driver to a hill climb. It proved a popular event which lots of people from Bromyard were able to attend.

The next Speed Festival would be held in Bromyard on 7th April 2019 and there will be lots of opportunities for local businesses to get involved.

Questions:

Coach transport - Jan Brodie Murphy asked if transport could be provided to Shelsey Speed Festival in future years. Tony explained that organisers had tried to keep the costs as low as possible by offering vehicle parking at £10 and suggested that the RBL might be able to organise a coach trip to the next event.

Roads – Tony said that as the vehicles involved in the Speed Festival were valuable vintage vehicles which tended to be low to the ground and the current state of the roads were a concern. Work had been recently been done on two of the roads on the circuit, but the main concern was the state of the High Street. It was hoped arrangements could be made with Herefordshire Council to get this repaired.

David James thanked Tony for his talk and said that we were all looking forward to the Speed Festival in 2019.

1. Minutes of the July Meeting were circulated and agreed.
2. Chairman's Report – Bromyard Council were concerned re the state of the roads in town. He had sent a letter to Bill Wiggins on behalf of the Chamber and the British Legion also expressing concern.
3. Treasurer's Report – Clare Davis unable to make meeting
4. Membership Secretary's Report – Sylvia said that we had several new members and welcomed two new members to the meeting.

5. Update on Festivals and Events

- a. Town Trail – 13th September, meet Meg, Bromyard Toll Keeper.
 - b. Christmas Lights – Roger Wilkins was pleased to say that Lanyon Bowdler would be donating a Christmas tree for the town square. Work would start preparing to put up the Christmas lights in early October. He confirmed that the Lights Brigade was now set up as a charity.
 - c. Folk Festival – This was taking place on 7th, 8th and 9th September with the usual procession through the town on the Friday night.
 - d. Royal British Legion – Poppy Pageant Parade would take place on 15th September. Janet Brodie-Murphy reported that the RBL had had good support from local businesses.
6. Chamber Awards – Phil Davies suggested the Chamber offered awards to local business people at a special reception. This would give an opportunity to celebrate achievements and for local businesses to have trade stands and offer a chance to meet and discuss ideas and experiences. To be discussed further at next meeting.
7. Date of next meeting – 3rd October 2018, starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Falcon, Bromyard