

Bromyard Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of Meeting 6th March 2019

David James welcomed all to the meeting and introduced speakers Julia Evans and Liz Kershaw from Longlands Farm, Whitbourne.

Julia said that she moved to Longlands in 1983, and had a stock of pedigree cattle and sheep. She became interested in finding out why youngsters were failing in main stream schools and was aware that academic studies were not for everyone. In 2009 she started with 3 youngsters who helped her with 'Riding for the Disabled' a charity that she had been involved in for some time. She works with pupil referral units and often receives children from difficult home backgrounds. Children are introduced to farm tasks including caring for animals on the farm and they can work towards qualifications in City and Guilds. The experience gained at Longlands helps towards finding employment. There is however no funding for youngsters over 16, unless this can be channelled through Mental Health. Longlands are hoping to fundraise towards covering this gap. They are also nearing completion of an eco-roundhouse to be used by the children. Longlands are holding an open day on Easter Monday and Chamber members were invited to attend.

David James thanked Julia and Liz for a most interesting talk and insight into the inspiring work carried out at Longlands Farm.

Minutes of last meeting – these had been circulated and were approved.

Chairman's Report – David James commented on recent developments concerning the Hop Pole.

Treasurer's Report – Claire reported on the Chamber accounts which showed no significant change since last month.

Update on Festivals and Events

Speed Festival, 6th and 7th April – This year there will be a 60's theme to the event. The festival is likely to be bi-annual from now on, partly due to the work in organising the event. It was hoped that repairs to the road surfaces on the route would be repaired before the event.

British Legion – D Day Celebrations. It was noted that the 75th anniversary would fall on 6th June, the same week as the Scarecrow Festival which would be on 7th – 9th June. It was agreed that the two events needed to be kept separate. Chamber members were invited to a quiz organised by the RBL at the Falcon Hotel on 27th March.

Calendar of Bromyard Festivals – this would be available shortly.

Any Other Business – Survey to be send out to local businesses was now finalised and would be available on line, with printed copies to be distributed to local businesses.

Next Meeting – this would be held on 3rd April, starting at 7.30 p.m. at the Falcon Hotel, Bromyard.