

Bromyard Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of Meeting – 1st May 2019

David James welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the speaker, Steve Matthews, Chairman of Bromyard Gala.

Steve spoke about how the Gala started as a Bromyard Fete in the vicarage grounds in 1967. It later moved to Broadbridge and gradually developed into the well known Bromyard Gala. The Bromyard Chamber had been involved from the early days of the Gala. It's first home was at Broadbridge Farm, but in the mid 1980's the Gala moved to Birchyfields when the Broadbridge farm was sold. It is now in a new home at Burgess Farm. This year's Gala on 29th and 30th June will include live bands, Tigers Children's Motorcycle Display Team, a sheep dog display, plus steam engines, gardening and trade stands. Steve confirmed that trader stands are £60 and local traders and charities would be offered 10% discount.

David James thanked Steve for a most interesting talk. He had found the history of the Gala particularly interesting and hoped that some of the suggestions made by members for future Gala's would prove useful.

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

Chairman's Report – David reported on Council Meetings he had attended. Discussions had included actions to be taken on business premises in disrepair.

Treasurer's Report – Currently members paid at different times during the year. It was agreed that these needed to be changed to the same month for all membership payments.

Update on Festivals and Events

Bromyard Festival of Speed – Phil reported that the event had been a great success, with an estimated 7,500 people attending. There were some areas to look at for the next festival in 2021, including car parking, signage, availability of programmes and fuller briefing for stewards.

There were far more applications for entries than could be granted, as the event was proving very popular with owners of vintage vehicles. There had been more trade stands than in previous years and this year's festival including a popular food village. The Conquest Theatre had screened The Italian Job on the Saturday before the festival and spectators enjoyed a re-enactment of the bank robbery from the film during the Festival. A Scenic Rally had also been introduced on the Saturday, which had attracted 24 cars and several motorbikes.

Any Other Business

Surveys had been issued to all local businesses, which covered both the Chamber and the Christmas lights. We were seeking their ideas on how we could represent business interests and what benefits they found in trade during the Switch-On Day and during the Christmas period when the lights were up. Thanks to Kim for all her hard work on this survey

It was agreed that the Chamber should support the formation of a new Tourism Group. A representative from Eat, Sleep, Live Herefordshire to be invited to speak at a Chamber Meeting.

Next Meeting – this would be held on Wednesday 5th June May, starting at 7.30 p.m. at the Falcon Hotel, Bromyard.