
AGENDA

1. Attendance

Apologies: Jacqui Shaw, Liaison Officer, Matt Crabtree, Treasurer

Invited: David Giles, Brixham Town Council

Attendees: M Green, Chair
C Slack, Arts & Craft Market
E. Pippett, Tourism
Alex Foley, Hospitality
Ian Didlick, Sunday Markets
Nigel Makin, Urban Regeneration

2. Meeting notes – agreed - YES

3. Parking Update

MG has been trying to contact the relevant person at Torbay Council. Has now contacted Susie asking to change / correct the parking tariff at the car park and remove the new sticker. Councillor Haddock has been ccd into emails. Spoke with Susie this evening, verbally told things will be sorted ASAP.

MG has been in contact with Councillors Haddock and Excell, and Sarah Wollaston MP. Our query initially is: with the proposed changes to Oxon Cove, what is the plan for extra car parking and coach parking? Multistorey car park in Brixham appears to be at the very end of their queue of development projects.

Reminder, Oxon Cove is our ONLY coach parking facility and its car parking space is full (as is the central car park) every day during the peak summer period.

Councillor suggested Park and Ride for coach parties; the committee agreed unanimously that this would not be a viable solution for the coach trips. We will need to put a clear proposal forwards. After discussion the committee does not have a clear idea of how to cater for coaches if no parking was possible in Oxon Cove.

MG has asked for Brixham central car park to be a priority project within central Brixham (any works therefore being completed before any building works on the second phase of the shellfish development. The consensus from the committee is that local businesses would put up with a period of disruption from the central car park development if they knew a big improved car park would be coming.

Councillor Excell will be visiting our next GM, he says he is a great supporter for improved overnight parking, but MG has had difficulty in contacting him.

The team discussed the implications of a large shellfish village with processing plants, noise, smells, traffic etc and the likely consequence on the tourism industry. There was varying levels of support from the committee about whether the development would be good overall for the town – all agreed that the way it is developed, and the focus on replacing car parking capacity, is important. Committee members expressed great concern about the potential damage to the tourism economy by removing the Oxon Cove car park. MG highlights why the need for the improved central car park is critical to offset this including opening up access to Middle St, enabling long-term parking,

Coaches are considered still to be a very important part of the local tourism and shopping economy by traders although numbers are thought to be dropping.

Dr Wollaston has said she (as MP) will be willing to help gain access to additional sources of funding although the best person to ask in this regard is Alan Denby of the Torbay Development Agency.

Overall situation update: some pressure has been raised and gives us an opportunity to continue to push for a central car parking plan. Councillor Haddock has said this project is likely to have raised its priority, may be considered in February. Alan Denby – TDA – said that he will raise our concerns at the next strategic planning meeting at which the TDA will be present.

The chamber needs to know what the cohesive plan is from the council, both (a) during the development project, and (b) after all the changes are finished. Specifically regarding (i) potential loss of coach parking space and (ii) loss of car parking space

The shellfish village is still in design phase and started early environmental studies but not made much progress. As this is a European Funding project funds would have to apparently be committed by February 2019...

The committee discussed if we should invite the Herald Express to listen to the discussion from the Harbourmaster at the next meeting, but agreed that this is not appropriate at this time, we wish to hear and disseminate the current plans.

4. Christmas Lights donation

Our funds are very tight this year; we have helped the council budget with (a) bunting and (b) the Christmas Tree suggestion from LP which has saved £600 via a donated Christmas Tree.

We have had a sum of money returned to the Chamber from BATS which are no longer able to spend it and we agreed that we should donate £250 from this to the council for the Lights budget.

LP suggests that this money is used to pay for a specific element of the budget with a clear mention that the Chamber has paid for it.

The committee discussed the efforts of Middle Street to provide their own Christmas Lights (not part of the council's budget this year) and how to do this with limited funds.

5. Christmas Dinner

MG has booked 6-20 places at BHH on Friday 22nd December (with the chance to increase if required). Members are required to book and pay online, booking forms to be sent to MG.

The Chamber is not subsidising this event but it is one way to encourage socialising between members.

6. Markets – Ian and Chris, can we arrange a time and place to sort out fliers, proposed banner and strategies for next year please.

CS and ID planned to organise a series of marketing materials for 2017 but the time ran out before the 2017 season. ID will take the lead on designing a flyer with a meeting between ID, CS (and MG if necessary) before the Chamber AGM on 23/1/17.

Brief reports: Other areas

Arts & Crafts Markets: £11,495.64 banked in the 2017 season; 55 markets but 10 were cancelled this year due to strong winds (the most ever).

Treasurer's Report:

The current position is as follows:

The current funds including income up to 09/10/17 but allowing for known expenses up to 31/12/17 stand at £6,305.49

Chris has banked a further £300 in and so this will give us funds of £6,605.49 at the end of the year.

Before we start receiving the market income next year we will need to pay for the licences and insurance. Last year the two licences cost £1,833 and £3,915 and the insurance cost £928. Thus a total of £6,676. This does not allow for any increase this year.

This leaves us just over £70 short at present.

However It is also my understanding that BATS are going to repay us the donation that we made to them although I have not had direct contact with them yet. This would amount to £570. I have not included this in the above funds. I have also not allowed for any further membership subscriptions. In the period between November and the end of the year last year we received £280 in subscriptions, although we did receive further subscriptions of Just over £2,000 in the first 3 months of this year. I have not included these above because I cannot guarantee the income even if it is likely and so I want you to consider this income in a very different way to funds already banked. I am also counting on these subscriptions covering the ongoing website costs, the cost of the event boards and other normal annual costs.

As you can see it's all fairly tight. It is just a case of getting through the first part of next year until we start to receive income from the markets again.

Whether we make a £250 donation or not I would expect the membership subscriptions to cover the shortfall and if we get the money back from the BATS this will cover the donation. At the beginning of next year we will have to monitor the subscriptions coming in and time expenditure accordingly. This may mean that we have to delay some payments next year until we are sure of the funds. It will really depend on the timing and amounts of the membership subscriptions in the early part of next year.

In short we can make the donation but we will be relying on future income to cover the increased shortfall. To put this in perspective this amounts to just over 7 membership subscription.

Based upon the above ramble let me know what you think. It's not whether or not we should donate as I think we all want to make the donation it is just whether we can afford it.

7. November General Meeting

- Brixham Harbourmaster's Office – Oxen Cove Development
- Mike Laukkanen and Jim Parker – Herald Express 2018 Business Awards
- Nicki and John Holmyard – Development of the Mussel Farm
- Car Parking – Councillor Robert Excell
- Implications of the budget – Matt Crabtree (AOB)

Can all executive members please prepare and send to MG a brief snapshot of recent progress / actions, in case there is time to report on them at the end of the meeting.

January meeting: 3 pitches from member businesses: Alex from World Class Training, Sebastian from Applied Genomics, Andrew from the Marketing Strategy Agency. Gives an opportunity to introduce themselves to other members. NB this is open to all members and these three have volunteered, others hopefully to be coming along later in the year.

8. Any Other Business

LP: it can be time consuming to chase members each time, she suggests sending an invoice automatically at the renewal date. Can we even increase the price for people who don't use the "autorenew" system?

There are apparently issues with payment by card, (paypal is possible) which is believed to be linked to the security features of the website. We need input from Mike Franchi to resolve this.

AF to help LP streamline the process.

MC is moving the Chamber's bank account over to a different bank, as Barclays has closed.

LPip: Instant Print has been selected for 2018 booklet printing, she showed the committee a sample of their printing materials which was approved by the group.

Event Boards: Information all provided, dates need to be checked by the committee before printing. LPip and MG to finalise the design in the near future, then after printing LPip's 'kind fairy' husband will be in charge of erections.

Date of next meetings:

Executive Meeting: Thursday, 14th December, 2017, Brixham Yacht Club, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm

General Meeting: Tuesday, 28th November, 2017, The Berry Head Hotel, 7.00 pm – 9.15 pm