

Annual General Meeting
11am Thursday 10th November 2016
The Town Hall, Bridgnorth

Attendees:

Caroline Barr – Bourton Manor, Laurence Banbury – Severn Valley Railway, Connie Baines – Bridgnorth Town Council, Carol Cooper – Vice Chair, Nadine Holland-Bailey – Bridgnorth VIC, Nick Kendrick- River Steam Holidays, Simon McCloy – Shropshire Tourism, Graham Mountcastle – Bridgnorth Town Council, Jodie Stephen – Shropshire Tourism, Emma Spenser – Bridgnorth Library, Anthony Webb – Chairman

The Chairman, Anthony Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Town Council for the use of the venue.

1. Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Mike Brogden – Ferndale Flat, Karen Crick – RAF Cosford, Paul Gossage – Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Judy Harvey – Green Holiday Barns, Louise Lasance – The Birdhouse, Althea Meredith – Hardwicke Farm, Mary Meddings – Serendipity, Lyn Pope – Washhouse B&B, Dee Revell – Bramley, David Robinson – The Croft, Rob Weston – The Severn Arms, Anne Wilson – Bridgnorth Town Council, Peter Williams – Halfway House Inn

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were reviewed and declared as being a true and accurate record.

Anthony took the opportunity to thank the Town Council for the grant they gave the Association earlier this year.

He also spoke of Tim King's retirement from Shropshire Council, and how there was no tourism officer at the Council any longer.

3. Chairman's Report

In addition to the Chairman's Statement forwarded in advance of the meeting together with the AGM papers, Anthony Webb presented his report.

He spoke of his decision to stand down as Chair, however he would still be happy to remain a director and board member.

He informed the board that the Association continued to actively support and market Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock & District with the production and distribution of 12,500 copies of the Where to Stay Guide. And that a revised Town Map was also currently being produced.

Anthony also spoke of the continued good working relationship with Shropshire Tourism and the support they provided to the Association.

He referred to the decision by Shropshire Council to no longer see tourism as part of their remit. He felt this to be a very negative approach as the amount of money and jobs that tourism related industries bring into the Bridgnorth area alone is estimated to be in the region of £92million.

He finished his report by stating that the Association would continue to act in the best interests of its members, and involve themselves in all tourism co-ordinating initiatives, as they believed that working together achieves more than acting independently.

4. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Rob Weston (the Treasurer) Simon McCloy presented the final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016.

Simon started by informing the board that the financial year had been shortened from June to March to bring the accounts in line with the usual financial year.

This year the Association were looking at a deficit of £2,668. A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure could be found on the final accounts for the year, available to download on <http://www.visitbridgnorth.co.uk/member-updates.html>

Simon also gave a brief update on the current bank balances. The Nationwide account stood at £10,477.44 and the HSBC at £5,196.76. There was income still to come for membership and brochure adverts, and also expenditure for the brochure production. He stated he would go through this more fully in the board meeting to follow.

Caroline asked if BDTA had ever applied for a grant from Much Wenlock Town Council. Anthony stated that they had, but were not successful. Caroline said she would look into it on the board's behalf.

5. (i) Election of the Board

Jodie Stephen presented the election of board members.

As previously mentioned, Anthony was standing down as Chair of the Association, but remaining a board member and director. No new nominations had been received.

Therefore, the members were asked to accept the re-appointment of the following existing board members on block.

Carol Cooper
Anthony Webb

Karen Crick
Rob Weston
Caroline Barr
Nick Kendrick
Laurence Banbury

Proposed – Connie Baines
Seconded – Nick Kendrick
All members in favour.

(ii) Election of Directors

Jodie also presented the election of directors, the following existing directors had indicated a willingness to re-stand.

Carol Cooper
Anthony Webb

Proposed – Caroline Barr
Seconded – Laurence Banbury
All members in favour.

Simon stated the importance of getting new members onto the board, and asked current board members to be proactive in recruiting new members.

6. Any Other Urgent Business

Graham informed the board that Bridgnorth was a finalist in the Great British High Street competition. There was still time to vote before 18th November.

Nick mentioned it would be worth contacting Arley Estate as there had a new owner who was very keen to be promoted.

There was no other business, therefore the AGM was brought to a close by the Chairman at 11.30am.