



Annual General Meeting
11am Thursday 23rd November 2017
The Mayors Parlour, Bridgnorth Town Council Offices,
College House, 4 St Leonards Close, WV16 4EJ

Attendees:

Caroline Barr – Bourton Manor, Tori Beddows – Shropshire Tourism, Laurence Banbury – Severn Valley Railway, Carol Cooper – Chair, Nick Kendrick - River Steam Holidays, Jodie Stephen – Shropshire Tourism, Emma Spenser – Bridgnorth Library, Sally Themans – Love Bridgnorth, Malvern Tipping – Bridgnorth Cliff Railway, Rob Weston – Severn Arms Hotel

The Chair Carol Cooper 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, Connie Baines - Bridgnorth Town Council, Karen Crick – RAF Cosford, Tom Franks – Claverly Touring Park, Paul Gossage – Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Judy Harvey – Green Holiday Barns, Althea Meredith – Hardwicke Farm, Mary Meddings – Serendipity, David Robinson – The Croft, Peter Williams – Halfway House Inn, Anthony Webb – Old Quarry Cottage

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were reviewed and declared as being a true and accurate record.

3. Chairman's Report

Carol started her report by thanking previous Chairman Anthony Webb. Anthony had been Chairman for many years and was standing down this year as he was moving away from the area. She wished to record her personal thanks to him for his support to her and the association over many years.

She also thanked Shropshire Tourism for the support they had provided the association for many years, both secretarial work and producing the visitor guides. Simon McCloy had recently retired from the company and Carol wished him all the best with his future plans.

She mentioned that the Where to Stay guide was not being produced or 2018. It had made a loss the previous year and they had decided to invest in the website instead. The Town Map had been re-printed though; 10,000 copies distributed to the usual outlets.

Carol finished her report by thanking the Town Council once again for the use of their offices for meetings, and to the board members for regularly attending meetings. They were on the lookout for new board members so for anyone interested to get in touch.

4. Treasurer's Report

Jodie Stephen presented the final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017.

This year the Association were looking at a deficit of £861. However this was an improvement on the previous years figure of -£2,668. This was mainly due to the Where to Stay guide nit being produced.

A detailed breakdown of the end of year accounts would be uploaded to the Members Updates page on www.visitbridgnorth.co.uk

Jodie also gave a brief update on the current bank balances. The Nationwide account stood at £10,571.14 and the HSBC at £3,169.71. There was income still to come for membership and also expenditure website hosting.

The board formally adopted the end of year accounts;

Proposed by Malvern Tipping
Seconded by Sally Themans

5. (i) Election of the Board

Jodie Stephen presented the election of board members.

As previously mentioned, Anthony was standing down from the Association.

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

Carol Cooper

Karen Crick
Rob Weston
Caroline Barr
Nick Kendrick
Laurence Banbury

Sally Themans had been asked to join the board and so was appointed as a new board member.

Proposed – Nick Kendrick
Seconded – Caroline Barr
All members in favour.

(ii) Election of Directors

Jodie also presented the election of directors. As previously stated, Anthony Webb had stood down as both director and board member. There were no nominees to become a Director so the following existing director was re-elected.

Carol Cooper

Proposed – Caroline Barr
Seconded – Sally Themans
All members in favour.

Jodie stated that another Directors was required and this could be looked at before the next board meeting in March.

Malvern said he would ask the Manager of the Cliff Railway Karl Braden if he wished to join the board.

6. Any Other Urgent Business

As a board meeting was not required after the meeting, the election of the Chairman took place under AOB.

Carol was re-elected as Chair for the upcoming year.

Proposed by Caroline Barr
Seconded by Sally Themans

Carol informed the board that she had recently attended a tourism groups meeting held by Shropshire Tourism. The aim of the meeting was to start working closer with the other groups in the county and for Shropshire Tourism to take more of a lead on the destination marketing.

One of the ways in which to do this was through social media. So ST were asking the tourism groups to feed through information or actual posts of their own, so that ST could push them on their social media platforms to cover the whole of Shropshire. Sally said she would be happy to feed her Bridgnorth posts through.

A general discussion took place regarding the changes in Shropshire Tourism and their aims for the future. Everyone hoped that joint working could be arranged and funding could be sourced to help Shropshire become a better promoted destination.

The AGM was brought to a close by the Chairman at 12midday.