



Annual General Meeting
11am Tuesday 30th November 2010
Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford

Attendees:

Connie Baines – Bridgnorth Town Council, Carol Cooper – Chairman Bridgnorth & District Tourist Association, Karen Crick – Royal Air Force Museum, Nicola Hook – Dudmaston Hall, Maurice and Eileen Knott – The George, Keith Lincoln – Finance Director, Bridgnorth and District Tourist Association, Simon McCloy – Shropshire Tourism, David Robinson – Company Secretary & The Croft, Linda Robinson – The Croft, Jodie Stephen – Shropshire Tourism, Richard Thomas – Colemore Farm, Anthony Webb – Vice Chairman, Anne Wilson – Bridgnorth Town Clerk, Rob Weston – The Severn Arms

The Chairman, Carol Cooper welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Karen Crick for hosting the event.

1. Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Heidi Lay – English Heritage, Tim King – Shropshire Council, Jo Chalinor – Much More Books, Shelagh Fletcher – Wenlock Pottery, Dee Revell – Bramley, Lynda Morse – Wyndene Guest House, Phil & Jane Secrett – Field House, Paul Gossage – Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Catherine Evans - Broome Park Farm, Caroline Barr – Bourton Manor, Judy Harvey – Green Holiday Barns, Sally Tallents – Hobnill, Jean Reynolds – Bridgnorth Cliff Railway, Althea Meredith – Hardwicke Farm, Ann Williams – 3 Queen Street

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were reviewed and declared as being a true and accurate record. Proposed – Rob Weston. Seconded – Maurice Knott.
There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

Carol Cooper presented the chairman's report starting with a mention of John Leach from Severn Valley Railway who sadly passed away earlier in the year. She mentioned his dedication and support for tourism, and that another representative from Severn Valley would hopefully take his place on the board.

Carol also touched on the change of the association to a limited company, and the changes at the Visitor Information Centre since Sue Yardley retired and the change to a unitary authority.

She thanked Shropshire Tourism for their support, Jodie for her secretarial duties and the work on the 2011 Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock & Severn Valley Visitor Guide, and the IT team for the website redesign that was currently taking place.

The issue of funding was also mentioned, Carol informed the AGM that the Service Level Agreement of £10,000 that they used to receive from Shropshire Council had been cut to £3,000 for 2010, and although they may receive the same for 2011, it was unlikely they would have anything in 2012. They would need to be more pro-active in the future and source funding streams to tap into. Joint working with other Tourism Associations was an option with regards to this. They have already worked with South Shropshire Tourism on a Discovery Map which was fully funded from various sources.

Carol also mentioned that the Olympics in 2012 was obviously a big draw for the area and something to capitalise on, the team at Shropshire Council including Tim King were working on projects connected to this.

Finally Carol thanked the board members and directors for their support and hard work, and mentioned that two board members Jean Reynolds and Peter Illes had chosen to stand down this year. David Robinson had replaced Keith Allen, both as an owner of The Croft and as a board member and now Director and Company Secretary. She invited the members to come forward if they were interested in becoming a board member.

4. Treasurer's Report

Keith Lincoln presented the audited accounts. He touched on the £10,000 funding from Shropshire Council in the accounts, this has now been reduced to £3,000 and stated the affect this would have on next year's accounts.

He also stated that the association's work benefited many businesses in the area that did not ever contribute.

He thanked David as Company Secretary for compiling the accounts and asked the AGM to approve the accounts. Proposed – Anthony Webb. Seconded – Rob Weston. All members in favour.

5. Election of Directors

Simon McCloy presented the election of directors

The members were asked to accept the re-appointment of 3 existing directors: Carol Cooper, Anthony Webb and Keith Lincoln, and David Robinson was elected as a new director.

Proposed – Rob Weston. Seconded – Maurice Knott. All members in favour.

6. Any Other Urgent Business

Chairman Carol Cooper invited the floor to announce any news or updates regarding their business.

Richard Thomas from Colemore Farm was asked to introduce himself to the other members and give a bit of background to his business. He informed the members that he had found the property in Astley Abbots through the Escape to the Country TV programme. They had originally been thinking about Ludlow but felt Bridgnorth had so much to offer so decided to buy a property there. They plan to open as Self Catering at Easter.

Rob Weston from The Severn Arms said that he had been to Ludlow at the weekend to the Medieval Fayre and it was very very busy, and why couldn't Bridgnorth attract the same amount of people. Connie Baines from Bridgnorth Town Council and Deputy Mayor stated that if she was to be elected Mayor, events would be high on her agenda. Town Clerk Anne Wilson said that she was looking at a license for the town to hold events. It was agreed that it was positive for the Town Council and BDTA to be working together.

The meeting was brought to a close by the Chairman.