



Annual General Meeting
11am Thursday 21st November 2013
The Engine House, Highley

Attendees:

Caroline Barr – Bourton Manor, Mike Brogden – Ferndale Flat, William Cash – Upton Cressett Hall, Catherine Evans – Broome Park Farm, Peter George – Daniels Mill, Judy Harvey – Green Holiday Barns, Nadine Holland-Bailey – Bridgnorth VIC, Maurice Knott – The George, Eileen Knott – The George, Tim King – Shropshire Council, Keith Lincoln – Finance Director, Bridgnorth and District Tourist Association, David Mee – Severn Valley Railway, Simon McCloy – Shropshire Tourism, David Robinson – Company Secretary, Jodie Stephen – Shropshire Tourism, Malvern Tipping – Bridgnorth Cliff Railway, Anne Wilson – Bridgnorth Town Council, Anthony Webb – Chairman,

The Chairman, Anthony Webb welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked David Mee for arranging the Engine House as the venue to host the event

1. Apologies

The following apologies were received:

Connie Baines – Bridgnorth Town Council, Tom Brettell – Shropshire Council, Carol Cooper – Vice Chair, Karen Crick – RAF Cosford, Nicola Hook – Dudmaston Hall, Max Linder – Wood Cottage Holidays B&B, Vicki Linder – Wood Cottage Holidays B&B, Robert Milton – Churches Conservation Trust, Lyn Pope – Washouse B&B, Sue Price – Coppice View B&B, Dee Revell – Bramley, Phil & Jane Secrett – Field House, Lisa Smith – Severn Valley Railway, Sally Tallents – Hobnill, Rob Weston – The Severn Arms

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were reviewed and declared as being a true and accurate record.

There were no matters arising.

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 stated that it had been twelve months since he took over the Chair from Carol Cooper, a hard act to follow.

He individually thanked the Board for their support over the year, and also Shropshire Tourism and Bridgnorth Town Council.

He talked of the 2014 Where to Stay guide due to be printed in the next few weeks, and being produced once again by Shropshire Tourism on their behalf. This publication was

now the association's only source of income, and they would continue to produce it whilst there was still the demand out there for a printed tourism publication, which recent research carried out by Arkenford stated there was.

Anthony also touched on the www.visitbridgnorth.co.uk website and the redesign that had taken place, resulting in an increase of visitors to the site by 27%. The website was hosted by Shropshire Tourism and an entry on the site was the main benefit of membership.

He also spoke of the reprint of the Bridgnorth Town Map that was part funded by Bridgnorth Town Council, and the QR codes that had been produced as window clings so that the map could be downloaded from various locations around town.

Anthony spoke of the recently formed Bridgnorth Area Tourism Action Group that had been set up to promote the area. The first meeting took place on 8th November and was attended by Cllr John Hurst Knight, Tom Brettell, the Bridgnorth Community Officer, representatives from Bridgnorth Town Council, Broseley Town Council, Shifnal Town Council, Shropshire Council, Telford & Ironbridge Partnership and Shropshire Gold, amongst others.

Caroline Barr asked what the group plans were. Anthony explained that just one meeting had taken place so far, so an action plan would be worked up at future meetings.

William Cash raised the issue of windfarms and how the association could support such issues, and Mike Brogden spoke of the lack of local support now there was no longer a District Council.

With regards to funding Anthony stated that the Association had this year received £1,500 of Service Level Agreement from Shropshire Council however this was likely to be zero next year.

4. Treasurer's Report

David Robinson presented the audited accounts.

He stated that the Association were this year looking at a small deficit of £573.

David mentioned that they were hoping to receive funding from Bridgnorth Town Council again, however they did not know how much this would be as yet. He also informed the AGM that they had made contact with the Local Joint Committee with the possibility of funding, however they had not placed an application at this time.

He then asked the AGM to approve the accounts.

Proposed – Anne Wilson
Seconded – Nadine Holland-Bailey
All members in favour.

5. (i) Election of the Board

Jodie Stephen presented the election of board members, all existing members had indicated a willingness to re-stand, with the exception of Keith Lincoln.

The members were asked to accept the re-appointment of all existing board members on block:

Carol Cooper
Anthony Webb
David Robinson

Sally Tallents
Karen Crick

David Mee
Rob Weston
Nicola Hook

Proposed – Anne Wilson
Seconded – Malvern Tipping
All members in favour.

(ii) Election of Directors

Jodie also presented the election of directors, all existing directors had indicated a willingness to re-stand, with the exception of Keith Lincoln.

Carol Cooper
Anthony Webb

Proposed – Nadine Holland-Bailey
Seconded – Maurice Knott
All members in favour.

The members were also asked to approve the appointment of David Robinson as a third director

Proposed – Keith Lincoln
Seconded – Maurice Knott
All members in favour.

6. Any Other Urgent Business

Chairman Anthony Webb informed the AGM that Keith Lincoln was retiring from the board this year after 25 years service. He thanked Keith for all his help support and advice over the years and presented him with a leaving gift.

Keith stated he had enjoyed his time with the association, but felt as he no longer ran a tourism business the financial motivation was not there and it was time now for new blood.

The members showed their appreciation for Keith contribution to the association and wished him all the very best.

The meeting was brought to a close by the Chairman at 12pm.