

Annual General Meeting
11am Thursday 12th November 2015
The Town Hall, Bridgnorth

Attendees:

Caroline Barr – Bourton Manor, Laurence Banbury – Severn Valley Railway, Connie Baines – Bridgnorth Town Council, Carol Cooper – Vice Chair, Nigel Dobson-Smyth – Manor Holding Cottage, Mandie Ellis – The Ship Inn, Nick & Roger Kendrick- River Steam Holidays, Tim King – Shropshire Council, Simon McCloy – Shropshire Tourism, David Robinson – Company Secretary, 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, Catherine Collier – Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Karen Crick – RAF Cosford, Pauline Fletcher – Heath House Studios, Paul Gossage – Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Nadine Holland-Bailey – Bridgnorth VIC, Judy Harvey – Green Holiday Barns, Althea Meredith – Hardwicke Farm, Gareth Owen – Canoe UK, Lyn Pope – Washhouse B&B, Dee Revell – Bramley, Malvern Tipping – Bridgnorth Cliff Railway, Rob Weston – The Severn Arms, Anne Wilson – Bridgnorth Town Council

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were reviewed and declared as being a true and accurate record.

With regards to matters arising, Anthony referred to the planning policy response they had set since comments at last year's AGM. He read the following aloud.

BDTA Planning Response Policy

Bridgnorth and District Tourist Association do not normally comment on individual planning applications, either for or against, as it is not possible to represent all of our members' views fairly and accurately in such matters.

However, if a member were to ask us to formally comment on a specific application on their behalf, we would respond to this request having first been agreed by your committee.

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 the new Visit Shropshire organisation set up to give representation to organisations throughout the county by acting together as one voice, through Visit Shropshire changes were more likely to take place and opinions heard. They would act as an influencing body.

One thing that was discussed at the Visit Shropshire meeting on 5th November was the current Accommodation Assessment Policy for the county. At present only properties that had been assessed could be promoted, however there were now questions as to whether this policy should change. He asked the meeting for their comments and a discussion took place.

Anthony asked the meeting if they had any further questions.

Nick Kendrick from River Steam Holidays raised the question of making better use of the river to help tourism. Connie Baines said this was a River Authority matter however she would raise the question at the next Town Council meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

David Robinson presented the final accounts for the year ending 30th June 2015.

He stated that this would be his last AGM as he was standing down from the board.

This year the Association were looking at a deficit of £1,964. This was likely to continue over the next few years, however they had started to charge a £20 fee for entries on the website this year alongside the usual brochure advertising income.

David said they had not received funding from Shropshire Council but they were extremely grateful for the funding they had received from Bridgnorth Town Council. He also took the opportunity to thank the Town Council for the complimentary room hire they provided for the board meetings and AGM.

He then asked the AGM to approve the accounts.

Proposed – Carol Cooper
Seconded – Caroline Barr
All members in favour.

David went on to explain that Shropshire Tourism would be taking over the running of the accounts for BDTA, however they did still need to elect a Treasurer.

5. (i) Election of the Board

Jodie Stephen presented the election of board members.

As previously stated, David Robinson had decided to step down from the board this year. This left a vacant seat, however they had not received any nominations.

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

Carol Cooper
Anthony Webb

Karen Crick
Rob Weston
Caroline Barr

Proposed – David Robinson
Seconded – Laurence Banbury
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 – Roger Kendrick
All members in favour.

David stated that a third director was required, however this could be addressed at a later stage.

6. Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other business, therefore the AGM was brought to a close by the Chairman at 12noon.