



SHREWSBURY TOURISM ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury at 11am on 18th January 2011

Directors and Members present:

Howard Astbury (Director) Helen Ball (Shrewsbury Town Council), Graham Babel (St Alkmunds Church), Jackie Brennand (Town Council), Peter Bettis (Shrewsbury Business Chamber), Michael Connor (Chairman of Board), Jocelyne Fildes (The Market Hall/Shop in the Loop), Edward Goddard (Director), Graham Galliers (River Regeneration), , Lady Ingress (The Old Station), Joyce Jagger (Battlefield 1403), Cllr Josephine Jones (Shropshire Council), Jon King (Shropshire Council), Richard Lawrence (Shropshire Council), Simon McCloy (Shropshire Tourism), Judie McCoy (Director), Mike Matthews (Prince Rupert Hotel), Peter Nicholson (Theatre Severn) Alison Patrick (Shropshire Council), Chris Rowlands (Wrexham & Shropshire Railways), Kim Ryley (Chief Executive – Shropshire Council), Ceri Richards (Sandford House), Richard Raven (St Alkmunds Church), Stan Sedman (Town Tour Guide), David Seadon (Shrewsbury Chronicle), Neil Shearing (Theatre Royal Apartments), Sheila Sager (Director), Jodie Stephen (Secretary STA & Shropshire Tourism), Claire & Lesley Simcox (Newton Meadows Holiday Cottages), Margaret Thrower (Percy Throwers), Clive Talbot (Shrewsbury & Shropshire Leisure & Water Group), Caroline Thewles (St Alkmunds Church/Children's Book Fest), Suzi Wilkinson (Town Council).

1) Welcome and Introduction

Michael Connor welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the 2011 Shrewsbury Tourism Association Annual General Meeting. He thanked Howard Astbury for his hospitality in allowing Shrewsbury Tourism Association to hold its AGM at the hotel.

2) Apologies and Announcements

Apologies were given but were not read out at the meeting but recorded as follows:

Sula Baugh (Stable Cottage), Alison Bollons (Friendly Caravan Club), Christine Boddy (The Rowans), Rosanna Bromley (Woodhouse Barns), Kevan Fox (Upper Shadymoor Farm), Kate Gittens (The Market Hall), Roger Good (Chestnut Croft), Mary Hopkins (Shropshire County Show), Paul Harris (Director), Neil Lewis (Barleycorn Barns), Heidi Lay (English Heritage), Ian Morris (Old Hand & Diamond), Sue Morris (Holly Grove Cottage), Deborah Northwood (Promotions & Development Executive STA), Cllr Peter Phillips, Myrtle Roberts (Mill Farm Holiday Park), Emma Richards (Bicton House), Mark Southall (Hawks on Walks), Howie & Caro Schiansky (The Pottery), Michelle Thomas (Ye Olde Bucks Head Inn), Martin Wood (Town Crier), Carolyn Yates (Byways Breaks).

3) Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM on 26th January 2010 were approved by the members. Proposed by Judie McCoy and seconded by Edward Goddard.

4) Matters arising

None.

5) Chairman's Report

Michael started the Chairman's Report by thanking the members and special guests for attending.

He then went on to inform the meeting of the activities STA had been engaging in over the past year and their plans for the future.

He began by reporting that the 2011 Visit Shrewsbury brochure was now out and the Town Map was due in a couple of weeks, both of which had made a profit this year, he thanked Jodie at Shropshire Tourism for her work on these publications.

Michael also mentioned the approved plans for a coach drop off point outside The Bellstone, updates to the www.visitshrewsbury.com website and the funding STA gave towards a new town crier uniform. He also touched on the joint working with the railways, both Wrexham & Shropshire and Arriva Trains and also Destination Shrewsbury who are made up of STA, the Town Council, Shop in the Loop and the Chamber.

Michael also mentioned the joint working with Andrew Bannerman and Dominic Wallis on the Olympic events taking place in the Quarry this year. Also, the training day that had been organised by Deborah Northwood and Alison Patrick for the public contacts in the town such as taxi drivers, traffic wardens etc to inform them of local knowledge.

Michael stated the importance and value of tourism to the town but stated his concerns regarding the new budget hotel to be built in town and the effect it would have on existing B&B's and hotels.

Overall he hoped that the initiatives STA had started up would sustain.

Michael finished his report by thanking the directors, Alison, Deborah, Jodie and the Shropshire Tourism team for their support over the year.

6) Income and Expenditure Statement to 31st March 2010

Alison Patrick presented the Financial Statement in Deborah Northwood's absence.

She highlighted a few points within the statement. This included the Contribution from SABC which should now read Shropshire Council, and the bad debt that was showing. This had now been written off and was connected to the production of the Town Map from a couple of years ago. Alison wished to point out that neither Shropshire Tourism or Carl Jones Design were connected to that year's map.

She asked the members if there were any questions, there were no questions.

7) Appointment of reporting accountants

It was resolved that Andrews, Orme and Hinton be reappointed as the reporting accountants for 2011. Proposed by Sheila Sager, seconded by Ceri Richards.

8) Election of Directors

It was resolved that all retiring directors: Michael Connor, Edward Goddard, Jennie Repath, Ceri Richards, Paul Harris, Judie McCoy, Howard Astbury and Sheila Sager be re-appointed for 2011.

Proposed by Joyce Jagger, seconded by Caroline Thewles. All votes in favour, unanimously agreed.

9) Appointment of Company Secretary

It was resolved that Andrews Orme and Hinton be re-appointed for 2011. Proposed by Edward Goddard and seconded by Judie McCoy.

10) Questions & Answers

Michael opened the floor to questions.

Caroline Thewles from St Alkmund's Church and the Children's Bookfest asked if there was support available for events she organised and also if the Summer Season was to go ahead this year. Alison responded that Destination Shrewsbury is considering supporting the Summer Season.

Cllr Alan Moseley commented on the work taking place at the Flaxmill, developments include a visitor centre and he offered to take the board on a tour around it. Richard Lawrence, the Head of Shrewsbury Growth Point at Shropshire Council informed the meeting of the projects his department was leading on including improving the gateways to the town centre such as the railway station and the Heathgates area.

Graham Galliers from the River Regeneration Group asked whether Shopmobility was mentioned on the new town map as he felt this was important information for visitors. Jodie said she would look into it for him.

11) Any Other Business

Alison informed the meeting of the new TV programme to be broadcast on 20th January filmed at Wroxeter Roman City. 'Rome Wasn't Built in a Day' covered the efforts to rebuild a Roman Town.

She also commented that there were currently two press agents working for Shropshire Council and to feed any new developments through to them.

12) Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close stating that the date of the next AGM was not set but it will be held in January 2012.

Presentation by Kim Ryley - Chief Executive of Shropshire Council

A presentation by Kim Ryley followed the meeting. The Chief Executive touched on such subjects as tourism, the vision of Shrewsbury, funding issues and structure changes.

This was followed by a questions and answers session.