

Little Common & Cooden Business Association Business Meeting



Minutes of Annual General Meeting: Tuesday, 19th March 2019 at 5.30pm Held at the Wheatsheaf Inn

Present:	Dave Apps	WetTech (Chair)	Sue Monks	RBL Women's Section
	Pete Freeman (Vice chair)	Denis Parkinson Carpets	Janet Dixon	RBL Womens Section
	Brenda Freeman	Village Hair	Kathy Harmer	Rother District Council
	Keith Walter	Retired	Michael Jeans	LCCC
	Gavin Holden	Pebblestone Kitchens	Roy Collins	PCSO
	Laura Johnstone	Wheatsheaf Inn (treasurer)	Lynn Adair	DarnKnits, Wheatsheaf Inn (secretary)

1 Apologies:	Nick Bygrave	Website/ Newsletter	Tim Gordon	Utility Warehouse 290 Taxis
	Sharon Gordon	Animal Chatter	Sally Wickens	Cream
	Jeannette Austin	Retired	Sue Hardy	LC Library
	Fleur and Hannah	Clip Joint	Margot McDonald	LCCC
	Carly Pritchard	Carly's Cafe	Surekha Patel	Best One Stores
	Patrick Stappleton	Redwell Estate Agents	Barry Edwards	Optician

	<u>Agenda Item:</u>	<u>Action</u>
2	Matters Arising from mins of last meeting: Agreed as an accurate record and signed by Dave	
3	<p>Chair's Report: - See appendix 1 at end of mins</p> <p>Dave was thanked for his efforts this year in keeping LCCBA alive and kicking! He then introduced PCSO Roy Collins who brought us up to date with local activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He reminded us that Jack Lines (101 years old) had recently died and will be remembered for being one of the last survivors of 'The Great Escape'. Roy also remembered his being scammed out of over £40K and for elderly in particular to be alert to any such activity. - Not only have there been break ins in Little Common as reported at the last meeting but also attempted break ins at the old Co-op building and Redwell Estate Agents. Businesses need to be alert to the fact that CCTV and alarm systems do assist in warding off such attempts. - A new sergeant has been appointed to the police service – Dave Elliot – who has been active in supporting new parking arrangements and in planning to target resources fairly across the region. Dave has been in contact with him and if anyone else would like to get in touch then contact Dave for details. - New parking arrangements are moving forward and hope to be completed by the end of this year ie new meters in Bexhill + enforcement officers appointed with private company to enforce parking arrangements locally. Rother will be responsible for setting the parking fines. Kathy Harmer informed the meeting that some random ticketing has already taken place in Bexhill with some positive impact. She has spoken to a councillor 	Contact Dave for details of new sergeant

	<p>responsible for tourism and a town hall employee to see if the same courtesy could be extended to Little Common and was assured that this would happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roy Collins said that there is an issue with ticketing for zig zag line parking as a PC may be needed due to fact that fine rate is different as is issuing of 3 points on licence. 	
4	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laura referred to a summary of income and expenditure for the year (from June 2018 when the bank account changed hands) and stated that more detail was provided at each meeting and attached to the minutes so there is clear transparency in all proceedings. - In terms of income this year there had been a large carryover. As Dave has already stated, no membership fee was made as a gesture of good will and donations instead were sought. However, these had been limited and would not be a sustainable method for raising funds in the future to enable supporting floral displays and Christmas lights in the village. The main fund raising activities have been the noticeboard (many thanks to Gavin for his continued hard work in carrying out this role) and a large donation from the summer fayre. In order to move forward with sufficient funds, the membership fee will be reinstated this year at a reduced rate of £30 per business. - The main expenditure this year involved repairs to the Christmas lights and flowers and in addition the normal spend on public liability and garage rental. Future spending is not anticipated to have any large unexpected spends. 	
5	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair – Dave Apps nominated by Kathy Harmer and seconded by Janet Dixon - Vice Chair – Pete Freeman – nominated by Lynn Adair seconded by Michael Jeans - Treasurer – Laura Johnstone nominated by Dave Apps seconded by Gavin Holden - Secretary – Lynn Adair – nominated by Laura Johnstone seconded by Dave Apps - Lynn pointed out that membership information will be updated and distributed in hard copy by hand to businesses with premises in the village and by post to non-premises based businesses. An email reminder will also be sent at the beginning of April. - Dave suggested a 90 day period for membership to be renewed before removal from the members list. 	<p>Lynn to update and print out new membership packs</p>
6	<p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patrick Stappleton at Redwell estates has created a facebook page which promotes the village of Little Common (Love Little Common) for their prospective customers. He has already taken lots of pictures around the village, including those of businesses. If anyone would like information about their business to be included on the facebook page then he is happy to meet with them, show them what he is proposing and add additional information to promote. - Jeanette Austin is liaising with Lynn and Laura at the Wheatsheaf to organise a Family Beetle Drive to be held on Thursday 30th May – more details to follow. - Kathy Harmer has been in discussion with Graham Burgess at RDC to increase the grant Little Common gets for Christmas. She has found out that although Sidley and Old Town are allocated similar amounts they do not claim them as they are relatively well off for funding. It is being considered whether their allocation could be sent to us instead – Kathy will keep us informed. - There was additional discussion about fund raising through various means eg seeking grants although it was felt that the process could be lengthy and 	<p>Contact Patrick at Redwell estates for more information</p>

	time consuming., seeking direct sponsorship from different businesses although it is recognised that many businesses are going through and uncertain time at the moment this might well be worth exploring. More options will be discussed at a future date.	
7	Meeting closed at 6.45pm Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11 June 2019, 5.30pm at the Wheatsheaf Inn	

Appendix 1 – Chairman’s Report for the year 2018 to 2019

This time last year The Little Common and Cooden Business Association was about to be dissolved by the previous committee. Thankfully a team of previous members decided that the association should continue and a new committee was elected along with a strategy for a simpler format for the immediate year with the main focus of which was to supply and maintain the summer flowers and Christmas tree and lights. Along with this it was agreed Lyn would run the summer fayre and donate a proportion of the proceeds to the association and we would maintain the website.

I am proud to have been part of this new committee and seen its objectives achieved. As chairman I walked around the village and spoke to members. In general, a more hands on face to face approach was appreciated. I also raised the issue of parking with Sussex Police and the last e mail I received dated 5th March from Acting Sergeant Dave Elliott stated that he is now the new sergeant for the team and notes our concerns. He has made contact with officers covering the area and hopes that we will see an increased presence with enforcement being taken. The village once again had a glorious display of summer flowers for which I would like to thank Keith for all his hard work.

The summer fayre was very successful. Thank you Lyn and her team for organising that event. I would like to thank Nick for continuing and maintaining the web site.

The Christmas tree and lights were a bit more of a challenge for which a lot of hours were spent by Lyn and Laura organising the necessary paperwork due to all records being disposed of by previous committee! A succession of meetings between the late Stuart Earl and Light Angels also took place and resulted in a magnificent tree and lights. The street lights were also put up again with help from GW Electrics. The community centre organised a carol service and refreshments following the lighting of the tree. A big thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas display and event.

As the bank balance we inherited this time last year was quite good it was decided that as a gesture of good will to the members the subs would be suspended for the year. However, we did receive voluntary donations from a number of members. Sadly, to continue in the future we will need to reinstate the subs but hopefully at a lower amount. We have now distributed collection boxes to the following business’s for donations from the public. Cream hairdressers, Barry Edwards Opticians, Village Café, Home Hub, Post Office, BN Blinds, Betts and Lloyd Butchers, Reynolds, Little Common Taxi’s, Simon Palmer hairdressers, Cutting Point barbers, The Wheatsheaf and Wet Tech. Everyone thought this a good idea but some members declined the boxes due to the number of charity boxes they already had.

As always, some shops and businesses have come and gone during the last year but the village still remains a thriving shopping area despite the uncertainty of Brexit. The biggest loss to the village and Bexhill community was the passing of Councillor Stuart Earl last autumn. The association and village will be ever indebted to his generous commitment to the area. We hope to have a something as a memorial to Stuart in the village later this year.

Finally, I would like to thank my vice chair, committee members and everyone who has attended the meetings this year and hope that the association continues for many years to come and propose that we continue with the objectives we achieved this year.

Appendix 2

Summary income and expenditure 26th June 2018 - 28th February 2109

opening balance	4193.55				
income via donations		tree donation		expenditure	
village café	25	rother	500	christmas	
clip joint	25			cherry picker	450 insurance
tpm	50			lights fixed	942.48 garage rent
barry edwards	40			tree	750 donation tubs
pebblestones	40			license	25 flowers
	110				
	65				
	15				
	<u>370</u>		<u>500</u>		<u>2167.48</u>
wheatsheaf fair	<u>600</u>				<u>1931.46</u>
	<u>970</u>	total income	<u>1470.00</u>	total expenditure	<u>4098.94</u>
				balance 28/02	<u>1564.61</u>
cash					
noticeboard	675				
wheatsheaf donation	68				
tubs	144			value of lcba	
	<u>887</u>			year end 28/02/19	<u>2451.61</u>