

## Lichfield Chamber of Trade and Commerce

Minutes of meeting held at Poms – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Present:

Ruth Redgate (Chair)	Kathryn Matthews
Jayne O’Keeffe (Clerk)	Callum Thorpe
Ann Schwarzenbach	Greg Birch
Becky Edwards	Ben Hatfield
Graham Shipton	Krissy Lackajis
Jono Oates	Steven Tamplin
Nigel Gam	Colette Bratton
Cathy Wood	Denise Whelan
Gill Fitzpatrick	Donna Garratty
Matt Clay	Tina Hart Prieto
Louie Clegg	Jan Leytham-Gain
Imran - Guest	James Pomlett

Apologies:

Caroline Davis, Angela Burns, Amanda Jackson Helen Reeves, Wendy Hill, Rebecca Hill, Lizzy Braine, Vicky Woolston and Gayle Edwards

1. External Speaker  
Firstly welcome to Nigel Gann and Cathy Wood who spoke to the Chamber members about the City of Sanctuary.
2. Finance update from the Treasurer  
Steven updated the Chamber on the finances for Chamber for the last year. Some historic expenses have been dropped. Membership has increased. One main expense is the payment to Keelys. In 2020 Keelys did a lot of work with the Furlough scheme, prices were kept the same last year. In 2021 only one member used the service. Fixed assets are the trophies. All agreed with Treasurers Report.
3. Keelys  
Keelys do a fantastic deal for HR assistant which the Chamber pay for. All members are entitled to advice from Paul, an Employment Lawyer who is contactable throughout the year. In light, that only one member used the service last year. Keelys have reduced the price to £750. All agreed to keep the arrangement with Keelys. The Chamber will see if Paul could come to a meeting to talk about the service. Next year we may review the membership to take into account those that would not use the service and those that would – two tier membership.
4. Expenditure  
In previous years the Chamber have funded the Christmas tree, last year it was not ordered. This year the LCC have paid for it. All agreed that the Chamber will no longer support the fund for the Christmas tree and are happy for LCC to carry on funding the tree.  
Jan explained that the donations to the Major’s charity fund had come through with no explanation normally photos would be taken and thanks given. It’s proposed that the funds are now used to support the Chamber and the businesses within it.  
  
All agree to still sponsor the Proms.
5. Membership

Proposal to increase the annual membership by £5 per year. All agreed. All membership will now go through the website. If someone pays part way through the year no prorata as their membership will run for a full 12 months. Venues such as Poms, Eastern Eye do not have free membership. It's proposed that The George pay a membership fee too.

6. Christmas Meal

Lovely evening and great food - thanks to Angie and all at the George.

7. Christmas Fair Feedback

Massive numbers! 27,000 increase on the previous Sunday! Never known any event like it. Thanks to all the volunteers, very successful event. A letter has been published in response to the complaints, tweaks have been made to this year's plan. One thing to consider for next year is a different fee for different stall holders. James explained how much prep and costs the food stalls would have - just to take into account compared to stalls selling small Christmas items.

8. Charities

Ann explained that she has spoken to Gary Williams from the Stan Bowley Trust - World Cancer day on 4 February does any wants to do a coffee morning? Or pop along to Gary's workplace to join in there.  
Lichfield and Tamworth Pamper Hampers – need drop off points for items in Lichfield.

9. Business Growth Grant

Two businesses were successful in gaining the grant. Poms will be investing in the Kitchen and will create 5 new jobs. Eastern Eye will be investing in some ordering software.

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at The George Hotel 6pm for the light buffet with the main meeting starting at 6.30pm. Graham will be offering PAT testing for one electrical item – donations to the Stan Bowley Trust.

Future Dates:

Wednesday 23 March - Eastern Eye

Thursday 21 April - Poms

Tuesday 10 May – The George

Wednesday 15 June – Eastern Eye

Thursday 21 July- Poms

Tuesday 9 August – The George

Wednesday 21 September – Eastern Eye

Thursday 20 October - Poms

Tuesday 8 November– The George