

MINUTES OF THE WOKING CHAMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Richard Field Dave Peet Cllr Dale Roberts

APOLOGIES: Rebecca Charlesworth Bruce Penson Boris Rusen Zo Khan Bev Kuchar

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
1.	Apologies: The meeting was opened, and apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes of the November meeting and any matters arising: All agreed.	
3.	<p>Woking Borough Council report: Dave gave an update from Bev:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footfall in Dec has gone down by 0.7% for the month to date, the positive side is if you look at those 16 days across the nation its -2.4% so we are doing better than the average compared to the same period in 2023. Richard suggested getting sponsorship for the Ice Rink in 2025 so that it can be brought back for the Christmas period, as it really encourages footfall. • Dave asked for an update on the road closures. Dale provided the official statement which reads: <i>Further to the damage caused by Storm Darragh to a number of exterior rain screen panels on the hotel, Sir Robert McAlpine is working to secure the building.</i> <i>“Victoria Way will need to remain closed until the works have been completed to ensure the safety of the residents, businesses, and visitors of Woking. This is expected to last until mid-January and could be affected by adverse weather conditions.</i> <i>We understand the impact the closure of Victoria Way is causing on the town centre and residential road network at one of the busiest times of the year and apologise for the disruption. Our teams are committed to working through the Holiday period and during weekends to ensure the necessary repairs are completed without delay.”</i> 	
4.	Treasurer’s report: Postponed.	
5.	<p>Planning, Property & Retail committee: The meeting was held on 5th December with a good attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon from The Peacocks wants to attend the meetings. • Wolsey Place is working well, it seems to have the right mix of shops that encourages footfall. In comparison, Peacocks is only 55% floor space full. • Steve is yet to advise whether he will be involved going forward. • Tariq has offered to chair the meeting from January. <p>Action: DP will contact Tariq to formally invite him to chair future meetings, and also invite him to sit on the Executive and report.</p>	DP
6.	<p>Business Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking dates for 2025: We need to request people book at least 24 hours ahead for catering purposes as too many are only booking on at the last minute. • Dave will speak to Rebecca re approaching JJ at the New Victoria Theatre to discuss if they would consider allowing the networking meetings to be held there again; how much would they charge including them catering. • Woking Football Club dates: 31st January – New Members Event. 28th February, 25th April, 27th June, 24th October, and 28th November. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoubleTree – 27th March, 15th May, 25th September, 11th December (still to be confirmed). • Executive meetings: Double Tree are still happy to provide the room for free but won't offer tea/coffee. We can't use the room in February or March until 7pm so will investigate alternative options. • In January we will be announcing that the Woking Means Business exhibition on 7th November will be held at the new Hilton Hotel. We will have the whole of the 6th Floor, available on the 6th for set up and 7th for the event. If we wanted to do an event on evening of 6th, we would have the venue available. Dave asked Dale if he could speak on behalf of WBC at the business breakfast. • AGM – Rebecca is talking to The Lightbox regarding hosting again. Date to be confirmed. • Dave is in discussions with organisations wanting to work with the chamber: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WBC – they want to re-start the quarterly meetings. Dave will discuss with Bev. ○ Victoria Square Woking (Tim Wells) want to be more involved – they have 2 residential towers; at the top of both they have a room with fully fitted kitchen and can hold events there. Dave and Rebecca will look and see if it can be used for an evening event perhaps. ○ Woking Football Club has a new owner, Todd Johnson, who is determined to get the business side going. He wants the football club to get involved with businesses that aren't sponsors of the football club. Dave and Rebecca will be talking with him this week to discuss options. ○ Hilton Hotel are still wanting to get involved with the Chamber events. They will be the headline sponsor for WMB. ○ Dave has asked Zo to speak with McLaren to arrange a visit next year. Members only, no charge. ○ Dave will contact the Mosque to see if we can arrange another visit for next year. Might try and contact them through Shaheed. ○ Dave will email everyone over the Christmas period to encourage attendance for events to get the most out of their membership. 	
7.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>RF – Christmas Networking event: doesn't think it was promoted that well, the Exec didn't talk about it much in November and getting commitment and arrange to invite people along etc., put on social media etc.</p> <p>RF – Speakers for networking events: we need to have the conversation around the Exec table as to who we can get to come along and speak at the events.</p> <p>Will Forster really enjoyed the breakfast meeting and wants to hold more. They are reactionary, so would be short notice. We would need to be ready & willing to arrange at short notice.</p>	
8.	<p>Next meeting: Tuesday 28th January 2025.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION POINT	DONE?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DP will contact Tariq to formally invite him to chair future meetings, and also invite him to sit on the Executive and report. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Development committee: to discuss how to re-engage the existing membership and demonstrate that there's still a need for the local business community to work together and help each other, and how the chamber can help them. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce to investigate why the system still can't take card payments. Bruce to come back with a proposal for improving Rubi/Website, although this will be potentially more costly if we stay with Rubi. Bruce to liaise with Dave/Rebecca/Richard on their consensus re when we should move to Microsoft365 for emails. This is a different issue to Rubi/Website. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca to speak with the new Hilton to see if we could host the WMB Exhibition in October 2025 there. Dave to speak with Paul about the £80 wine bill. Usually this is provided free of charge via sponsorship. 	