

WREXHAM TOURISM FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on Friday 11 November 2005 Rossett Hall Hotel

Present:	John Newton Jones	JNJ	-	Farmworld (Chair)
	Darryl Shaw	DS	-	Rossett Hall Hotel
	Mike Kagan	MK	-	Cross Lanes Hotel
	Del Roberts-Jones	DRJ	-	Tourism & Rural Development Manager
	Dawn Roberts	DR	-	Economic Development Manager, WCBC
	Colin Hyde	CH	-	Marketing & Communications Manager, WCBC
	Sue Kelly	SK	-	Open Churches Network
	Nia Hollins	NH	-	WCBC
	Dewi Davies	DD	-	TPNW
	Pat Bannon	PB	-	Ramada Plaza Hotel
	Allan Forrest	AF	-	Northern Marches Cymru Manager
	Keith Challoner	KC	-	K & S Challoner
	Sue Jones	SJ	-	The Willows, Sontley
	Peter M Brignall	PMB	-	St. Marys Cathedral
	Ray Squire	RS	-	Bluestone Cars
	Catherine Mills	CM	-	HOLD Ltd
	Edward Owen Davies	EOD	-	TTFW
	Paul Lariat	PL	-	Business Eye

		Action
1.00	<p>Welcome and Apologies CH welcomed everyone and then passed on to JNJ for a formal welcome. JNJ thanked colleagues at WCBC for their support throughout the year.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Bryn Hughes, Haydn Hughes, Geoff Leigh-Ford, Gwyneth Forrester and Rev Marshall. All had expressed their intention to attend future meetings.</p>	
2.00	<p>Chairman's Report JNJ presented the Chairman's report and asked if anyone had any questions or had anything to add.</p> <p>RS asked what the plan was to build Wrexham as a brand. CH replied that there was the intention to investigate a full branding study for Wrexham in terms of both a tourist destination and for inward investment. DR then explained referring to the chairman's report that Tourism is an important part of the county's revenue of 66.2 million.</p>	
3.00	<p>Election of Officers DR explained that they had received no nominations. MK proposed JNJ to be Chair and DS seconded it. MK proposed for DS to be Vice Chair, Rev PB seconded it. WCBC will take on Secretariat and a Treasurer role, but the group can appoint a new Secretariat and Treasurer at a later date, if they want to. DS proposed that the meetings could take place with a minimum of two trade</p>	<p>Agreed Agreed Agreed</p>

	<p>members rather than a quorum of seven. JNJ suggested that a quorum may not be necessary.</p> <p>MK explained that a quorum is required to ensure continuity of members to attend to make decisions and best represent the group. DD suggested that that a quorum of 5 would be sufficient. MK proposed to reduce the quorum to 4 people, DS seconded this.</p> <p>RS then enquired about how people get to know about the meetings as this was the first time he had heard about the Wrexham Tourism Forum, while attending the Wrexham Business week. NH replied that all known accommodation and attraction trade and any related business who have contacted WCBC tourism section are automatically added to the database.</p>	Agreed
4.00	<p>Proposed Composition of the Executive Committee:</p> <p>DS explained that he felt that electing the membes looks exclusive, new operators have been excluded, but would like to contribute.</p> <p>JNJ explained that it wasn't a exclusive club, there's no problem with anyone attending the committee meetings</p> <p>DR explained that some changes to the committee have been suggested, as Chirk Castle is the only one that has shown any interest in attending as a National Trust representative.</p> <p>JNJ asked for proposals for names for remaining groups. DR asked for Northern Marches Cymru to be added to attend meetings.</p> <p>MK agreed that they were welcome to attend. DS also agreed.</p>	
5.00	<p>Election of Executive Committee Members</p> <p>The agreed Executive Committee Members are:-</p> <p>Services Sector Representative – Michael Kagan (Cross Lanes Hotel)</p> <p>Services Sector Representative – Geoff Leigh-Ford</p> <p>Self Catering Sector Representative – David White (Stableyard, Bangor on Dee)</p> <p>Caravan & Camping Sector Representative – Della Brookshaw (Plassey)</p> <p>Conference Sector Representative – Haydn Hughes (NEWI)</p> <p>Information Points Representative – Gwyneth Forrester (Gresford)</p> <p>National Trust Representative – Kenneth Anthinez (Chirk Castle)</p> <p>Attractions Sector Representative – John Newton-Jones (Farmworld)</p> <p>Open Churches Network Representative – Sue Kelly (Gresford)</p> <p>JNJ explained that continuity of Executive Committee members is required, anyone can attend, but he suggested that not everyone would be able to vote.</p> <p>DR suggested that people who have been nominated can vote and others would be able to give opinions but not vote.</p> <p>JNJ asked for any more nominations to be added.</p> <p>MK nominated PB from Ramada, DS seconded the nomination</p> <p>SK nominated RS for travel activities, seconded and agreed.</p> <p>CH then introduced EOD for a presentation of TTFW – Copy of slides attached.</p>	Agreed

6.00	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>PL was asked to explain what Business Eye do. PL explained that Business Eye is a signposting service for businesses that may be planning growth referred or for people who are starting up their own business, they also provide business advice, or refer them to someone else who can help. PL explained that they were county based and Wrexham Business Eye were based at Bersham.</p> <p>DR then gave an update on the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. DR explained Pontcysyllte has been identified as a possible World Heritage site, and the process was underway. UNESCO rules say a potential site must meet one or more of six possible criteria to be considered for World Heritage status, and the consultants say the aqueduct already meets three of them. If Wrexham Council's executive board give the go-ahead to the bid, it will be the first of five "green lights" that will be required before the aqueduct can become a World Heritage Site.</p> <p>After Wrexham Council, the bid will then have to go through British Waterways, Welsh Assembly Government, the UK Government and finally UNESCO.</p> <p>The time frame for our bid to go forward has not been made public by UK Government but will be 2007 onwards. We're hoping to use the aqueduct bicentenary, on November 26, as a springboard to getting plenty of support. By that time we hope to have ticked off two of the five "green lights". Celebrations for the aqueduct's bicentenary conclude on November 26 when a host of activities take place there concluding with fireworks.</p>	
7.00	<p>Date of next Executive Committee Meeting</p> <p>Monday 16th January 10am at the Ramada Hotel. A guided tour will follow the meeting, and anyone not on the committee is welcome to attend.</p>	