

NEWTON STEWART BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Monday 29th September, 2008 at 7pm in the Vreebridge House Hotel,
Newton Stewart

PRESENT

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Mary Prince (Chair) | Graham Nicol |
| Brian Marshall (Treasurer) | Kenny Owen |
| Julie Hamilton | Emma Barlow |
| Michael Turner | Kevin Dean |
| Stephen Donnan | Elaine Marr |
| Angus Tait | Mark McLean |
| Andrew McClymont | Alan Love |
| Veronica Love | Alex Reynolds |

GUEST SPEAKERS

Gordon Smith, Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary
Alex Cowie, Head Teacher, DEHS

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the new faces and introduced the guest speakers.

2. Apologies

Gordon Andrews

3. Guest Speakers

Alex Cowie expressed the importance of the school's involvement with local businesses and his desire to promote a closer partnership through the NSBA. Of great concern was the desire for pupils to leave the area after they have left school as they do not feel there are many opportunities for jobs and housing in the area. In terms of forging links between the business community and the school Mr Cowie advised the school building is a vastly underused resource for local businesses. Mr Cowie would also like to see businesses supporting pupils with sponsorship for academic and sporting achievements.

Inspector Gordon Smith outlined his background to the meeting. He advised that one area of great concern to businesses in the town is litter, vandalism and unsocial behaviour. He insisted that the police are there to reduce crime and not be parents to underage drinkers. He also asked that local businesses and members of the public inform the police of any anti social behaviour as the police are powerless to do anything if they are unaware of incidents. Asked by several businesses about police response times to call outs he explained that response times are measured for emergency calls only and that the area covered locally is the second largest in Scotland. One further issue raised was people trying to contact Newton Stewart Police Station being redirected to Dumfries. Inspector Smith explained that as NS Police Station is not fully manned many calls were unanswered. However 95% of calls are answered via the new redirected number.

Break for refreshments

4. Minutes of the previous AGM

Proposed by Elaine Marr seconded by Stephen Donnan

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that last year had been very busy and updated on various projects and presentations. These included CCTV, the tourism website and information boards with the Forestry Commission, the shopping survey in conjunction with DEHS, representation on local councils and the Merrick rally, corporate shopping bags and the contribution to the hanging baskets throughout the town. Throughout the year interesting guest speakers had attended some of the monthly meetings. Mary thanked all who attended the meetings regularly but stressed that more businesses need to become involved with the group than simply subscribe each year and then stay away.

6. Treasurer's Report & Accounts

Brian Marshall circulated the accounts. He advised that the subscriptions were down from 49 to 36. A £100 donation had been made to the DEHS and £500 was held for the Merrick rally.

7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Chairman | Mary Prince, proposed EM seconded KD |
| Vice Chairman | Kevin Dean, proposed MP seconded EM |
| Treasurer | Brian Marshall, proposed MP, seconded EM |
| Committee | |
| Gordon Andrews | |
| Stephen Donnan | |
| Elaine Marr | |
| Angus Tait | |
| Alex Reynolds | |
| Mark McLean | |
| Julie Hamilton | |

8. AOB

Mary thanked the guest speakers and those attending the meeting. Elaine thanked Mary for all the work she had done over the past year.

9. Date of next AGM

Monday 28th September 2009