



**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Present:**

Richard Malachowski (Chair)  
Dave Blackett  
Amy Blackett  
Gareth and Susan James  
Marcia Bird  
Nanda De Rosa  
Bryan Houghton  
Brian Williamson  
Mark Wakefield  
Will and Zoe Ruddell  
Austin Bambrook  
Kim Burberry  
Steve Edwards  
Kelly Thompson (was Huntingdon)  
Lee Buckingham  
Paul and Krystyna

**Apologies:**

Ralph and Jane Maloney  
Darius McDonald  
Bob Finegan  
Martin Owen  
Alison Hares  
Paul Martin  
Mark Harris  
Louise Sullivan  
Neville Diss  
Jo Clarke  
Dean Parkes

**Apologies and Intros and welcome to Amy Blackett**

Apologies are as above. Introductions were made by each company and Amy Blackett was welcomed and thanked for taking the minutes.

## **Treasurers Report**

*Marcie mentions that there are now 40 members within the club and there are 7 in the pipeline. The Balance at present is £1826.79.*

*It was also mentioned by Zoe that the business recruitment is very quiet at the moment.*

## **Thank you from Dave Blackett for First Aid Course**

*Dave recommended Kelly Thompson's first aid course, which took place at Sawtry Community College along with all teachers apart from Dave. Also mentioned by other members that this would be very useful not only to Sawtry Marquees but everyones businesses. Contact Kelly Thompson for future course dates.*

## **Committe Meeting Update**

Present Ralph, Richard and David

*The community cabinet board is going ahead and will be added to the front wall of the Workingmans Club. The way in which each business would be advertised in the cabinet was discussed. One idea mentioned was that everyone would be advertised at the same time with one business showcased and this would be on a rotation basis. The use of a light (LED) within the cabinet was also discussed and that we should use the groups resources to make the cabinet more active.*

*Social Events were also discussed which are on the agenda.*

*New Website was discussed and Paul and Krystyna have an up date next*

## **New website**

By Krystyna and Paul

*The use of the new website was demonstrated to the rest of the group, which still needs finalising but should be fully live approximately March 1st. The original website has been restructured to create a fresh look and easy to use website. The website was said to be beneficial to both the community of sawtry and to the SSBP members. The website is easy to update and may be updated by certain people, such as the treasurer and minutes writer. A core team was also suggested and Mark and Austin volunteered.*

## **Advertising Costs**

*It was requested by Richard that if any members are comfortable to discuss their Advertising experiences and costs, whether that be in the meeting or in private. This discussion may help other members decide what type of advertising method could work for them at what to avoid. It was suggested that a discussion was made next month on topic.*

## **Demo of iPatter**

By Lee Buckinham

*iPatter was presented by Lee to the rest of the group and shown how to navigate around the social network for businesses. Lee offered his services to help members set up their own profile and help make their way around the website. It's a platform for business, which is linked to google, other social network sites and can be linked to your website. The website is free and offers the businesses to reach other businesses in Sawtry and surrounding areas. It was obvious that the network site provided a large amount of opportunities for the businesses and the SSBP. Lee also mentions that after only 18 months his company has made 200,000 connections to other businesses with 28,000 new connections each month.*

## **Alconbury Enterprise Zone**

*David attended a Breakfast Forum by Huntingdon District Council who presented their Spending Proposals for 2012/2013 and Development plans to the Local Community. During the meeting it was discussed how the A14 would be developed, as well as how the developers of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone are looking to Huntingdon Regional College apprentices and local businesses which could offer more opportunities for SSBP members. Faster broadband is planned for the area and although it was mentioned that there have been no definite dates made by the planners their would possibilities for specific property requirements by local businesses with 5 year Rate relief. Dave has the contact details of the planners Urban and Civic if anyone is interested.*

## **McMillan World Quiz**

*Being held at Greystones in the function room on Friday 24th Feb is a Guinness Book World Record Quiz night. Starts at 8pm with music later. Contact Ralph for further details, cost is £2 each and Ralph has about 12 members taking part already.*

## **Friday April 20th**

*Vocalist is unavailable as her husband is unwell. It was offered to the group whether they were happy with the decision to host a Comedy Race Night instead. This will involve 6 people dressed in fancy dress to hide their identity taking part in various sporting events and bets can be made on the race similar to that of the traditional race nights. Other ideas will be welcomed to how we could raise money on the night and the committee are looking into food being provide by the local Balti House.*

## **June 2nd Queens Day**

*Sue James among others is organising a Picnic in the Park at St Judiths Fields in Sawtry. SSBP has been asked how they could have a presence there. Richard Malachowski offered around some Cup Cakes to try. His idea is that we could Sponsor either a batch of 12 Cup Cakes for £20 (a £5 donation will be made to Caresco) and you could have a little flag in them with your logo on or a Large cake for £40 (again with £5 donated to Caresco) but this time with your logo on the cake. All questions and cake orders to Richard.*

### **June 9th Carnival**

*Space at the Carnival has been reserved and again Sawtry Marquees have kindly donated marquees. Those that will be attending should speak with Dave Blackett, Richard Malachowski and Ralph Maloney. Last year was a great success and much was learnt from the day. This year we need to really impress on the public to who the SSBP area.*

### **June 5th meeting**

*The member were asked if there would be an issue to change the June meeting to the 6th as the Tuesday the 5th is a bank holiday.*

### **Next Meetings**

*March Meeting Guest Speaker is Martin Rickman from Federation of Small Business (FSB)*

*April Meeting is Steve Willingham head up a discussion and q and a and a session on social media.*

### **AOB**

*There was no other business from the members*

**Next Meeting 6th March 7pm for 7:30pm start.**