



**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
1 FEBRUARY 2011**

Present: Ralph Maloney (Chair)
Jane Maloney
Adam and Clare Merton
Dave Blackett
Martin Bell and Mary Edwards
Nanda De Rosa
Carol Wyles
Brian Williamson
Chris and Michelle Deller
Gareth and Susan James
Louise Sullivan
Kim Burberry
Richard Malachowski
Marcia Bird
Will and Zoe Ruddell
Alison Hares
Gary Barker
Paul and Krystyna
Mel Groves
Hayley Gillespie
Steve Pratt
Barry - CARESCO

Apologies: Jacqui Hedington
Martin Owen
Gill Tanner
Justine Eldred
Bob Finegan
Eileen Le Voi
Neville Diss

1. **Apologies:**

Apologies are noted as above.

2. **Introductions:**

Introductions were made for the purpose of all members present.

3. **Recruitment campaign for 2011 and prospects:**

Dave Blackett is currently awaiting feedback from various businesses and trades. Members were reminded to invite people they know to the Group and contact Dave for any further information.

4. **Website update:**

Analytics data regarding hits on the website was not available. Members will be able to view this at the next meeting. It was noted that there has been increased activity on the website.

The Group are looking for someone to help out with the website. Should anyone be interested please contact either Ralph Maloney or Adam Merton.

Ralph Maloney advised of three further websites where you can register for free:

freeindex.co.uk

peopleperhour.com (freelance website where freelancers bid for work)

tickles.co.uk (regional website that gives you daily special offers when you sign up)

Should members have any feedback on any of these sites please contact Ralph Maloney.

A member has recently registered as a trade with B&Q and was also able to have a website setup for free as well as an in-store trade discount.

5. **Wellside Surgery TV:**

Wellside Surgery will not allow the Group to use a TV screen for advertising purposes but we are able to leave advertising leaflets in the waiting room.

It was noted that no further contact has been made with Business by Design regarding advertising on the TV screens at Serpentine Green.

It was suggested that the dentist's surgery may be worth approaching for TV advertising.

6. **News and updates including college interviews:**

The college interviews took place and went very well. Five members were able to help out on the day with mock interviews.

There will be a quiz night on 15 April at the Sawtry Working Men's Club. Entry fee is £5 and all proceeds will be going to the Royal British Legion.

Members were notified that there is a £300 maximum fine for putting commercial rubbish in the waste bin.

7. **Advertising leaflets - Sawtry Eye distribution:**

Approximately 2,500 advertising leaflets will be distributed within the Sawtry Eye later this week. The cost in total for producing and distributing the leaflets was £110.

As an aside it was noted that Yaxley Gazette which goes out to approximately 5,000 homes and businesses would charge £207 for an advert. It was decided to wait for feedback on the Sawtry Eye advertising leaflet before any further advertising decisions are made.

8. **Charity night Friday 8 April 2011:**

Posters are now available for the charity night. Tickets are being sold at £10 each. Entry will be free for children under 12 years of age. Raffle prizes for the evening are still needed. Auction items such as autographed books or CDs are also needed.

Please contact Ralph Maloney for any further information.

9. **Guest speaker: Marcia Bird "VAT and You"**

Marcia Bird gave a talk on the legal aspects of VAT registration. Any member wishing further advice, please contact Marcia directly who has kindly agreed to talk to any member regarding their VAT queries.

10. **Sawtry carnival 11 June 2011:**

The theme for this year's carnival is the Royal Wedding.

Anyone wishing to take part or run a demonstration at the carnival please contact Ralph by the end of March. Louise Sullivan and MBE Partners have kindly agreed to present beauty treatments.

11. **Next quiz night:**

It was suggested that September would be a good time to hold the next SSBP quiz night. Adam Merton has kindly agreed to set the questions for the night.

12. **Any other business:**

Will Ruddell will be doing the 3 Peaks Challenge in 24 hours on 1 June in order to raise money for Sudden Infant Death. Members will be able to sponsor Will through the SSBP website.

Ralph Maloney recently circulated an email to members notifying them of Sawtry and Yaxley Libraries being earmarked for closure. This would mean travelling to Huntingdon for the nearest library.

Next meeting: Tuesday 1 March 2011 at 7.30pm