

Weymouth BID Ltd
 Annual General Meeting
 Tuesday 18th November 2014
 Royal Hotel Esplanade

WEYMOUTH
 WEAREWEYMOUTH.CO.UK

LOCAL BUSINESS
 SUPPORTING
 WEYMOUTH



BID Board Attendees

ALISTAIR CLARKE (Joint Chair)	AC
ALISON THEOBALD (Joint Chair)	AT
STEVE NEWSTEAD	SN
TIM WILLIAMS	TW
Cllr RAY NOWAK WPBC	RN
BRIAN COOPER	BC
DENNIS SPURR	DC
IAN JEFFERIS	IJ
SIMON NEWPORT	SNW
TAMSIN MUTTON-McKNIGHT	TM
SOPHIE KERMANI JIBET	SK
SUE ROPER	SR

BID Operational Staff

NIGEL REED (BID Manager)	NR
Ann Newman BID Administrator	
Alex Burden BID Media Assistant	

Other Attendees

T Hedger Economic Development Office WPBC
 WPBC Councillors
 BID Levy Payers
 Press
 General Public
 Non BID Levy Businesses

Registration forms show a total of 77 attendees in addition to the above. (92).
 Representing 61 BID Levy Businesses.

Additional Attendees

There were a number of additional attendees who to enable the meeting to begin did not register. This number cannot be verified but is estimated to be between 20 – 25 and no information on whether they were BID Businesses or general public can be verified.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Last Meeting EGM
4. Matters Arising from Minutes
5. Chairs Report
6. Treasurers Report Accounts for 2013 – 2014 Year 1
7. Amendment of Constitution
8. Nominations & Elections to Board
 - Co-opted Members
 - New Members
9. Confirmation of BID Board members

10. Close of Meeting 19.15

Following the close of the AGM there will be an opportunity for a question and answer session with the Board with a finish time of 19.45

Minutes

Chair's opening comments	Alison Theobald's opening comments included references to criticism of the Alice Trail which was described as 'underwhelming' and which the BID had learnt from, and criticism of communications – which the BID will be improving in the coming year.
Treasurer's comments	The Treasurer's opening comments stated that the BID is all about transparency. The First Year's accounts were announced and talked through using the account sheet that all the attendees had been given. It was indicated that the BID operates within the Business Plan and it is on target to meet plan for next year It was anticipated that key projects will be part of the budget and stated that all key projects are assigned a budget It was stated that the overseeing of additional expenditure is done by the board, all payments are authorised by the Board and that figures are updated to the Board on a monthly basis
Joint Chair AC	Explained the Constitution will not be voted on as it is not a legal requirement.
	There were comments from the Floor that it is the Levy Payers' Constitution so they should be able to vote on it. It was accepted that further work was required on this and the Articles of Association.
BID Manager	Stated that the BID is governed by the Articles of Association as the main method the Company operates.
	There were questions from the floor as to why it was on the Agenda if it could not be voted on today

Joint Chair AT	Pointed out that at the time of compiling the Agenda, it was unclear whether a vote was required. Legal advice had confirmed after the release of the Agenda there was no requirement.
	The general feeling from the Floor was that the Levy Payers were the owners of the Constitution, and as such, they should be allowed to change it.
	There were questions surrounding what rules the BID was working to if the Constitution was not going to be agreed upon today
Francis Drake	Asked why the Board had removed a Board Member for asking questions
Joint Chair AT	Explained that this was not the reason for removal and the Board had all received the information as to why the removal was proposed and had duly made their decision based on this
	There were questions from the floor as to the ability of the Board to remove one of its members not being in the interest of the Levy Payers membership.
AT	Weymouth BID as a Company has the right to remove Directors of the Board and Articles provide reasons that this may be proposed.
	<p>Election of Board Directors Vote A Vote was proposed to adopt the current Directors who had been co-opted during the Year.</p> <p>New Directors proposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Jefferis Owner Weyprint & Dorset Schoolwear • Simon Newport General Manager First Group • Tamsin Mutton-McKnight General Manager Merlin Sealife & Tower • Sue Roper Owner/Director Hotel Rembrandt <p>A Vote was taken by a show of hands.</p> <p>This vote could not be confirmed and should have been re voted on either by removing all non-levy payers from the meeting or a re-vote after confirmation of those entitled to vote.</p> <p>This did not take place</p>
	<p>Points raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time had been wasted on questions that many in the room had no knowledge of and more information on how the BID was working to support business would have been time better spent • The point was made that Board Directors were all volunteers giving their time for free. • The BID main function is to increase footfall out of the main holiday season.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was discussion on how the BID was run and the continued need for better or more communication with both Levy payers and the businesses in general
Joint Chair AT	Explained some of the systems of communication the BID was planning to instigate in the near future and that the BID had already started working on improved communications, working with the Dorset Echo and Wessex FM Radio
AT	Stated the BID needs to be supported by the Levy Payers over the 5 years of the plan and look for the positives rather than the negatives.
	Weymouth BID's performance was compared unfavourably to that of Dorchester BID. It was point out by Board Members that Dorchester BID had been in existence for a number of years and so is likely to be more settled but had also gone through a wave of criticism in its first years.
	THE AGM WAS CLOSED
	THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WAS OPENED
	The Chair addressed a pre-scripted list of questions and misconceptions people had about the BID
QUESTION 1	<p>That the BID contracts were not open and was providing 'jobs for the boys'</p> <p>Joint Chair AT replied this was not the case and a wide range of over 30 businesses have received contracts from the BID.</p> <p>Reference was made to Directors and it was reiterated that the BID board give up their time free of charge. If a Director had an opportunity to deliver a project then this was declared an interest and that person could not vote or make that decision.</p> <p>The BID accounts provide a true statement of the BID's Income & Expenditure</p> <p>There were calls from the Floor to be allowed to vote on the Accounts. The accounts were statement of fact and confirmed by the BIDs accountants as a true and correct record there was no requirement to vote on them.</p> <p>It was suggested the BID is bound by law to get 2 or more comparable quotes. There is no such case in law or the BIDs set up for this.</p> <p>The question was asked 'do Board Members give work to each other?'</p>

	<p>The BID is not a business exchange network work contracts are based on what is required and who can deliver this.</p> <p>The point was made that the main contract to deliver the Marketing and Promotional Campaign to advertise Weymouth & Portland area and the We are Weymouth branding had been won by a company outside the area.</p> <p>There was a suggestion from the Floor that the BID website could offer the opportunities of jobs it needs doing, to enable local businesses to tender for the work.</p>
QUESTION 2	<p>A question to know what the BID Manager is paid for the role</p> <p>The accounts clearly state the total wage bill for the year of £42,700 which included the Manager and two part time staff.</p> <p>Weymouth BID Ltd does not have to provide this information unlike local authorities for their most senior staff;</p> <p>Joint Chair AT made reference that a figure quoted of £90,000 was widely inaccurate as the accounts figure provided above indicated.</p> <p>All Staff who work for Weymouth BID Ltd are protected by privacy laws as an employee.</p>
QUESTION 3	<p>Voluntary levy payments.</p> <p>AT pointed out that some businesses have made enquiries about paying a voluntary or extra levy. The Board has agreed these payments should be at least £200 if the payer is outside the levy payment area.</p>
QUESTION 4	<p>What is the BID doing to improve communication?</p> <p>AT stated the BID now provides levy payers with weekly updates, sent by email; it has plans to start drop-in 'surgeries'; Directors will each take an area of the town and visit businesses to engage with business owners and find out what they would like the BID to do for them, and take on board their ideas and suggestions.</p>
QUESTION FROM FLOOR	<p>A levy payer asked if the minutes of Board Meetings could be published on the BID website.</p> <p>Alison stated this would not be the BID's policy as they may not want to make public everything that was said at Board Meetings. However she pointed out that all the decisions made at Board Meetings were already published on the website.</p>
	<p>A point was raised that not all were receiving the emails or newsletters</p> <p>AT explained that the BID email list is updated regularly and if people were not receiving the information to inform the BID Office providing contact details</p>

<p>BID Manager</p>	<p>BID Manager outlined some of the benefits to the town that the BID is working on such as Springboard Footfall Counter, and the success of the new events such as Freaky Friday and Feast. He also pointed out that the BID is a 5 year plan and not everything will be achieved in the first years. Discussion took place around the areas of the town picked by the BID to host events, which appeared to usually be Debenhams Square</p>
<p>Victorian Shownight</p>	<p>There was general discussion about the timing of Victorian Shownight and whether businesses would benefit by having stalls on the night.</p> <p>Board Member DS stated he had been successful with his stalls on Christmas Shownights in the past by adapting to suit the prevailing trade, available stall locations and the weather. He said people come to spend their money and we need to promote ourselves</p> <p>It was mentioned from the Floor that not all shop keepers want a stall outside as they already have shops, and discussion took place around whether customers would go into shops on the night or prefer to shop at stalls.</p> <p>There were calls from the Floor for reasonable parking, and it was pointed out that it is free parking on Victorian Shownight. It was asked whether the ice rink would again be outside Debenhams. This was confirmed and that Santa and the Reindeer will be next to St Mary's Church in St Mary Street. Businesses needed to promote their own activities and offers with support from the BID in promoting these</p>
<p>Waterfest</p>	<p>There was a suggestion from the Floor that while the BID is a good idea, and it could have a brilliant future bringing more people to Weymouth, perhaps the Waterfest should be moved to a later date to fit with the BID's business Plan to bring more people to Weymouth out-of-season.</p> <p>There was general agreement from the Floor. This was answered by the Board that the 2nd week in September would have been the ideal week to hold the Waterfest and there are plans to move it to that weekend.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed</p>