



Federation of Small Businesses (Stroud Branch)

119/05

Branch Committee Meetings are held on the First Thursday of the month starting at 7.30pm with a target duration of 2 hours.

All Branch members are welcome.

Minutes Of Stroud Branch Meeting

Thursday 2nd December 2010

at

Whitminster Hotel

Present:

<i>Dave Middlemiss</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Roger Sillick</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Steve Powell</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>
<i>Simon Herbert</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>

Others Present *Chris Usher, Terry Morgan, Katy Lawson, Beth Whittaker, Susie Haigh*

Apologies *Terry Lockwood*

1) Minutes

The minutes of the October and the special November meetings were agreed as true records.

2) Matters Arising

Newsletter – Beth Whitaker sought clarification of what can go into the newsletter. Various options discussed. Katy Lawson volunteered to assist Beth.

3) Regional Committee Report

Nothing to report

4) Officers Reports

i) Chairman

Nothing to report that isn't being raised elsewhere in the minutes.

ii) Secretary

FSB membership currently 210,000 – Branch Membership, Aug 818 and Sept 827 with a Retention rate of 92.59% - We need to appoint a voting delegate for the 2011 National Conference – Branch AGM's must be held after 17th October each year – Officer Declaration forms to be completed and signed (forms distributed) -

iii) Treasurer

No Report. Roger Sillick proposed Katy Lawson for the vacant treasurer position, seconded by Susie Haigh – All in favour.

5) *Policy and Lobbying – TM*

- i) **Meeting with Pete Gilbert & Gideon Darley**
Discussed planning, tourism, canal, council survey and LEP.
- ii) **Local Enterprise Partnership**
TM brought the Branch up to date with the LEP. The Glos/Swindon/Wilts bid had been rejected by BIS - back to starting point again. Most business groups and community still seem to want a stand-alone County-only LEP
- iii) **White Papers**
TM is responding on behalf of region (via SWAPU) on Government White papers on Global Trade, Export and Manufacturing (copies available)
- iv) **Parklife**
TM is meeting Keith Rog and Buying Support Agency re Parklife (positive follow up to Stroud B2B meeting).
- v) **Policy Weekend**
There is SWAPU Policy weekend February in Glastonbury - anyone interested in attending (limited space) let TM know by mid December.

6) *Branch Plan and Activity Report – Dave Middlemiss*

- i) **B2B**
This was an extremely successful event and we can move it on from where it is. FSB had good PR from the event and it looks like it made about £1400 profit.
- ii) **Vale and Valleys**
This needs to be properly constituted. SH suggested that it constituted as a Social Enterprise with a memo of understanding between the various groups. Next main event is a Business Week in July 2011 which the next level of the B2B event.

7) *Any Other Business*

- i) **SH** – will be checking rules about how to deal with non attending committee members.
- ii) **RS** – Reports that Stroud Show will be on 16th July and asked how many pitches we will need – Two pitches requested.
- iii) **RS** - Locking Hill traffic flow changing direction on 17th January.
- iv) **RS** – Reminder that VAT is changing to 20% on 4th January.

Next Meeting – Thursday 6th January

Signed