



Meeting date	Monday 15 March 2021
Venue	Zoom meeting
Chamber members and representative attendees	Uta Acuna – President, Helen Baker – Vice President, Veronica Spoors - Vice President, Tracy Dixon – Treasurer, Debbie Grant – Marketing Committee, Colin Smith – Honorary Member, Paul Baker – Crafty Norman, Tamzin Gray – Christmas Committee, Sarah Truman – Sarah’s Cellar, Glenna Favell – Battle Town Council, Natasha Williams – English Heritage
Apologies	Kay Hunting, Mike Dawes, Lizzy Hurst – The Honest Hub, Paula Williams – British Design British Made

**Minutes** of the February 2021 meeting were agreed by the meeting and signed off by the President.

**Matters arising**, there were no matters arising

#### **Treasurer’s report**

Please see AGM accounts

#### **Membership report**

There was no membership report given

#### **Event Committee reports**

- **Marbles**, please remember there may be matches on August bank holiday if there is enough interest from local teams
- **Mediaeval Fayre**, see attached plans for the 2022 celebrations – a three-day extravaganza. Please let the Committee know if you are interested in taking a stand or share one with another business
- **Christmas** will commence their planning in the summer

#### **Town Council report**

There were no items to report

## **Any other business**

### **Report form 1066 Country – Jane Ellis**

We're gearing up to hopefully be able to showcase an open for business 1066 Country.

We're currently getting a good rate of members renewing to stay on the website from across the towns and indeed have recruited a fair few new members, which is really pleasing given the current climate of course. *We really need to show the Battle High Street off as well as the historic side but without the businesses joining, the eating out and shopping pages will look thin for the town.*

### **Note from Robin Vennard at Rother District Council to all members:**

We have updated our website which now includes some end dates for some of the grants. The information is on the usual page on our website  
[www.rother.gov.uk/business/information-for-businesses/](http://www.rother.gov.uk/business/information-for-businesses/)

Also, we received guidance on the national Restart grants announced in the Chancellors budget. It looks as though we will not be permitted to pay the grants until April. Sadly, it also looks like based on the Government requirements, a new application process will be required and we won't be able to use businesses previously submitted information to automatically make payments. We are hoping to get this clarified with BEIS but its sensible to alert your Members that it's likely that they will need to apply for this grant. We will be using the same software as before. We will update our website as soon as we know.

There will also be a new discretionary scheme for businesses not covered by the national Restart scheme, although we are not confident it comes with any new money. Hopefully there will be sufficient left from the current funding we received for the discretionary scheme for us to put something worthwhile in place. This new scheme will be developed over the coming couple of weeks and will require Member approval, we are hoping that we can be live by mid-April at the latest.

Veronica asked regarding the Scarecrow Festival, please see below notes from the Battle Festival minutes sent by Helen Baker.

“Margaret confirmed that the Scarecrow festival is organized. She has now spoken to Richard Gladstone of the Hastings Observer regarding the press release. Hopefully that will come out in next week's. Julie and I will drip feed them regularly. It will run from 27<sup>th</sup> June – 18<sup>th</sup> July. Yarn bombers will be out and it will tie in with the summer flowers display. No people's vote – no pressure on people. The Council will put out the stakes and it should be quite unaffected by any restrictions. The entry form should be active from tonight.”

The meeting concluded at 18:45.