

Malahide Chamber of Commerce

Annual General Meeting

Held at the Grand Hotel on 30th March 2009

Agenda:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Treasurer's report
To consider and adopt, if approved, the accounts and balance sheet for the past year.
(available at the meeting)
4. To appoint auditors
5. To consider the adoption of a revised Constitution. (copy of current and proposed attached)
6. President's report
7. To Elect Officers and Members of the Committee
8. Any Other Business

Apologies: Deirdre Rochford, David Walsh, Michael Wright, Tony Byrne, Darragh O'Brien T.D.

Minutes: Minutes of previous AGM read and approved

Update on 2008 Minutes:

- 4 concerts last year – Successful but parking was an issue.
- Taxi rank – no parking in the taxi ranks is now being enforced.
- Garda Business Watch Scheme – no update at this time
- Shuttle bus service for castle to town / swords – need Fingal to be bought in to the process

Treasurer's Report

Ernie Brenner presented the audited accounts for 2008.

Income

- Subscriptions are growing – communication is the most important message; business to feel they are part of a group and are getting value for money
- Thanks to Matt for Golf income, without it many activities could not happen

Expenses

- Website – email campaigns, updating website
- Secretarial and accounting – room costs, communications
- Insurance – currently for tidy towns and Chamber – looking to consolidate
- Cervia – new separate special interest group now established
- Christmas lights – may have to change bulbs to go green energy next year, Eric commented that we won't have to do this.
- There is now a pully system in village diamond – banner can be put up in the centre of the village for welcoming visiting groups
- Mandate being put in place for treasurer to approve all expenditure in future

The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Mary Farrell and seconded by Eric Crampton. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Re-appointment of Auditors

The re-appointment of Des Mullock & Company as auditors was proposed by Al Ryan and seconded by Mary Farrell. The proposal was carried.

Constitution

Al Ryan presented the reasons for and changes to the existing Constitution.

- Defines Membership but all will be represented. Retaining ethos, but only paid members can vote, chamber continues to represent all businesses in Malahide
- Clarifies procedures for when a President leaves office before term is expired.
- Clarifies what financial controls are in place.
- Clarified the role of the Chamber

Comments on Constitution

- Eric Crampton – congratulated team on updating constitution. One section of concern noted: Section 7 – termination of membership.
- Chair response: Moved to assure all that the clause is there to protect the integrity of the chamber. Circumstances for termination of membership are not open to interpretation as outlined in the constitution.
- Al Ryan proposed to accept the constitution in full and seconded by Matt Corcoran. 16 Votes in Support – 1 Voted Against. The new constitution was carried.

President's Report

- Thanked all members of the Committee for their time at meeting and on other activities.
- Thank Eamon Porter for his service. Especially his excellent submission of behalf of the Chamber for the Malahide Urban Centre Strategy.
- With Deirdre Rochford, we first engaged in a project to update the directory of businesses as a basis of a new communications system.
- Ernie reorganised the accounting system so that we now have a monthly report on exactly how finances stand. We also have introduced budgets and spending controls.
- Started a new Newsletter as the foundation of good communication with the business Community. Working well as a method of regular communications in cost effective manner. Any suggestions for newsletter should be emailed to president@malahidechamber.ie.
- In September Matt Corcoran organised a very successful Gold Classic which raised €5800 which was crucial to the Chamber. Next golf classic for 2009 in late August.
- The Tidy Town Committee lead by Gerry Rafferty won a Gold Medal in Category G.
- Eric Crampton organised the Christmas Lights. Cost was €14k with €5k coming from Fingal Co Co. This project broke even. In light of possible reduction on Fingal support, we need to keep this project under review for 2009. The Chamber cannot take on the financial risk but will co-ordinate the project.
- Liaised with Fingal Tourism and organised a meeting for interested parties, on their Fingal Food Festival project but there is still no result.
- Liaised with Malahide Forum to ensure that in all our representation to Fingal Co Co we were in agreement, thus strengthening Malahide's position.
- In December the chamber held a social/business Chamber lunch. Guest speaker was David O'Connor and there were 140 attendees. We also presented the Malahide Business Awards

for 2008. This event was a great boost for the chamber and encouragement for us to organise more events in the coming year.

- In 2009 to date we've started to seek membership subscriptions to fund this year's activities. All Members now get a receipt for their subscription and a Members decal for display on their premises. They also are featured on the website – see logos on the home page at <http://www.malahidechamber.ie/index.html>.
- Attended our first Malahide/Fingal Co Co Liaison Committee meeting at Malahide Library. Distributed notes on this meeting and Fingal budgets to all members.
- A new website was developed by Cathy Dunne, Córa Garvey and Deirdre Rochford and is now a better resource for businesses and the public. We encourage members to use the Biz to Biz section to promote themselves to other members and the public. Check out <http://www.malahidechamber.ie/biz.html>.
- Regarding the website, Ronan Reynolds asks: "can we put matters of cultural and/or news events up there? For e.g. a local choir that has events, so how can they promote it?" Response: A blog now exists that has a "feed" on the website home page. If anyone has news, events or updates for the site, please just send an email to events@malahidechamber.ie and we will upload it, if appropriate. Items should be relevant to Malahide. This is a free service and will encourage regular visitors to our website so please use it!
- Member Events
 - Organised a HR seminar for Members – very happy with turnout
- De-stress event coming up on Saturday 18th April, lead by Ross Cousens of JDA at 1.30pm. Ross is a Tai Chi Instructor and this free event is designed for business people to provide tools to control stress. Open to all.
- Tidy Town Committee starting to get organised. Working on finalising budget and further plans will then get underway.
- Met with Fingal Co Co re their plans for Malahide Castle. Malahide Castle is a huge resource for the town. Many visitors go to the castle and we want to encourage them to come to the town. Working on a way to link between castle and village.

Looking ahead

- Bridgefield car park. This has continued as a topic but there is little sign of any early resolution. Al Ryan is going to contact Irish Rail about their car park which is situated in an even more central position in the town and could add 60 spaces if developed.
- Promotion Program for Malahide: The chamber represents you, the business. We are currently working on a promotional campaign for Malahide. In order to support this, initially it will be funded by subscriptions but depending on reaction the project may be expanded. This is our main project for the year and seeks to bring business to all areas of Malahide. A website will be first target in order to put all info in area – we're hoping to build on www.Malahide.ie as it also has community information. We would like to rebuild this site and use as lynch pin of marketing campaign. We will then go to print, radio and web advertising. So... keep those subscriptions coming in!

Election of Officers

- President: Ronan Reynolds proposed Al Ryan, seconded by Mary Farrell and agreed unanimously by the meeting
- Vice President: Mary Farrell proposed Deirdre Rochford, seconded by Eric Crampton and agreed unanimously by the meeting.
- Secretary: Ronan Reynolds proposed Córa Garvey, seconded by Denise Doyle and agreed unanimously by the meeting

Treasurer: Al Ryan proposed Ernie Brenner, seconded by Matt Corcoran and agreed unanimously by the meeting

2009 Committee Members

Thank you all for agreeing to be members of our new Committee. Following a successful AGM the Committee is:

Al Ryan	President
Deirdre Rochford	Vice President
Ernie Brenner	Honorary Treasurer
Córa Garvey	Honorary Secretary
Matt Corcoran	
Mary Farrell	
Eric Crampton	
Ronan Reynolds	
Jillian Stout	
Gerry Rafferty	

Any Other Business

- Cervia Flower Exhibition
 - Eric Crampton provided an update on the Cervia project. This is an historic event where Malahide have been invited to Cervia following very successful relationship building, and Malahide's success with the gold medal in entente floral.
 - This invitation has no expense to chamber.
 - Malahide Cervia committee: Eric Crampton, Gerry Rafferty, Christopher Heevy
 - 3 Main Sponsors: Bord Bia, Fáilte Ireland, Fingal Co Co
 - Leaflet being created by Cathy Dunne of iCatch and will be completed shortly
 - Government is to make announcement of Malahide's' participation. This event will be used to promote Ireland, Fingal and Malahide.
 - Future: Irish tourist board may come in to help us from this.
 - Budget is tight. Any donations are very welcome. Please contact Eric Crampton to help with this event: <mailto:pottery@oceanfree.net>
 - From the chamber: High thanks and praise given to Eric Crampton and team for their work and with the enormity of the event.
- Vaccination of Malahide 12 year old, 6th class girls against Cervical Cancer
 - Dr. James Reilly attended the AGM to propose involvement of the chamber in some way to encourage local businesses to help fund the cost of vaccinating Malahide 6th class girls from cervical cancer. This initiative is building on the recent success in Rush/Lusk and has been gaining a lot of media attention since the minister of health removed the vaccination as standard from the last budget.
 - Dr. Reilly stated that he wishes this to stay out of the political arena
 - There are 125 girls – 12 year olds in 6th class only – in Malahide
 - The more children involved the lower the cost, €112 inc VAT – hoping to drop to lower vat rate but its at 21.5% at the moment
 - Each girl requires 3 injections. Cost currently is €112 x 3 shots x 125 girls = €42,000
 - Requesting that the chamber makes an appeal through website, newsletter
 - Al Ryan is happy to bring it to the committee and members for discussion. Will revert to Dr. Reilly with a response.