

MINUTES OF THE BFMD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 5.00pm 21st May 2015

Attendees: Niki Lathwell, John Potter, Colin Slade, Meia Allegranza, David Hinshelwood, Pené Prior, Richard Chesterton

Apologies: Peter Shaw, David Disney

Chairman's Remarks

- 61 bookings this evening

Business Expo 2015

- Well organised, good attendance
- Next year, slightly altered design of floor plan, more stands, less food area.
- Poor attendance from forum members!

Acceptance of March minutes - Nil Matters arising

Finance/membership report

- 3 new members, 3 have left since last meeting – 2 renewals O/S
- £6370.98 in bank
- Still awaiting invoice for hustings meeting at Tiverton Hotel
- JP £800 invoice O/S
- Invoice for flyers (hedgerow print) to pay

Marketing and PR:

- Send photos of table shots and speakers from the meeting to Meia
- Meia will load to Facebook – and encourage members to like and like on the timeline
- Colin will tweet facebook entries
- Colin will tweet the events on the BFMD website
- July meeting Meia will photo the food and place onto facebook and will be tweeted, in order to provide some support to Rhys / Tiverton Hotel.

Speaker schedule: latest

This evening - IT theme

- Welcome, on-tables intros – 15 min
- MDDC update – 10 mins
- Connecting Dev/S'set (Cosmic) on future techs/apps that'll help your biz, cloud, (open source?), superfast rollout, etc – 30 mins
- The Gro company –to discuss IT for growth theme with them – 30 mins
- Explain Business Improvement Districts, Tiverton feasibility study – Lucie Ball

- Notices

Thursday 17 July – Sales and selling theme

- Dave Barr has offered to speak on ‘how to network effectively’
- Topic of “clinching the deal” – ask Dave Barr for suggestions

Tuesday 23 September – Procurement theme

- How do small businesses identify tender opportunities and prepare bids?
- Devon procurement partnership - talking about some of their major contracts across the region
- EDF procurement team to discuss opportunities at Hinkley? And their process
- A break-out session around how businesses can strengthen their bids in tendering processes / how procurement processes can be simplified / encourage local procurement
- Discussion around developing consortia of smaller businesses to enable them to bid for larger contracts as a group
- MDDC
- Notices

Tuesday 24th November – AGM

- PS/CF/NL Marketing workshop? Or combine AGM with Christmas Dinner and have paid keynote speaker of note?

Suggestions?

- Apprenticeships – possible for employers who have utilised apprenticeships to talk through the practical issues?

AOB

- Would there be interest on organising social events for the BFMD membership? Annually or quarterly? Examples dinner (awards), picnic, family event?
- Annual awards at November AGM? All committee members to bring an award category suggestion to the July meeting.