**Watlington Business Association AGM**

**Friday 7th October 2022**

**6:30pm**

**Present**: Tom Calnan (Chair) – Calnan Brothers

Steph Van de Pette (Secretary) – SO Sustainable

Loraine Daniels – Bella Luce (Committee member)

Robin Holmes-Smith – The Granary Deli (Committee member)

Al Tait – The Orange Bakery (Committee member)

John Riddell – The Spire & Spoke (Committee member)

Martin & Karla Edis – now retired, formerly Drapes Design

**Apologies** Louise Stile – Bella Luce (Committee member)

Denise Allnutt (Treasurer)

David Cotterell – Apex Healthcare Consulting (Committee member)

Debbie Hemmins – Rainbow Corner Day Nursery

Jennifer McCahill – Watlington Wellness Centre

Catherine – Italian Handbag Company]

1. **Minutes of last AGM** – Available for inspection. Approved.
2. **Chair’s report**

Good evening everyone, and thank you for coming. Welcome to this years AGM meeting

If your not sure who I am, my name is Tom Calnan and I have the honour of being the the Chairman of the Watlington business association.

Like most organisations, this year has been particular tough and we have all had a difficult year with COVID back in December and now the cost of living crisis. So what I am trying to say is this report will be brief!!

However, even though the last 12 months has been incredibly hard for everyone we have managed to work around the situation.

- We have raised a tremendous amount of money to help local charities. This was achieved through the Christmas raffle. It was great to have the Christmas market back and it was clear that everyone enjoyed them selves. Robin and his team did an amazing job and here’s to the next Christmas market in 2 months time!!

- A Big thank you to Robin and his team for sorting the lights and trees out at Christmas. Last year we did something different. Instead of paying people to put up the trees and the lights the community came together (under the trusty guidance of Robin) to put the lights and trees up. There was a great community spirt and everyone enjoyed them selves

- Art week was another tremendous success. With even more artists and visitors it really is an event that Watlington can be proud of. A massive thank you to Loraine, David and the team for achieving this. It gets stronger and stronger every year and everyone just loves it

Now lets talk about Watlington its self. What an incredible town we live and work in.

As we all know Watlington has a fantastic high street which has become famous for its food, gifts and services. We are particularly lucky to have a high street that doesn’t have any empty shops after such a hard period of time. This just proves what a great community we have and we should be very proud of this.

Watlington doesn’t only have a great high street it has an amazing amount of other businesses. Did you know we have in the region of 200 businesses in the area. The Watlington business association thinks this is fantastic and over the next 12 months we are going to work hard to connect these businesses and help make sure everyone gets the best out of Watlington. We really need to let people know how good Watlington is as there are quite of lot of people that simply don’t know we are here.

Before I finish I would like to take this opportunity to thank every committee member for their time and contributions to the association. You are all very busy with your own businesses and all the other businesses do appreciate what you do.

Thank you for your time and thank you for coming.

1. **Treasurer’s report** – Accounts attached. Error on first column of figures for income / expenditure should be 2021/22. Current members list in Appendix.
2. **WBA initiatives**
   1. **Branding project** – The WBA are investigating professional marketing support to promote the town. Martin suggested contacting SODC as they can help promote towns/villages. John to follow up with Anna Badcock (SODC Councillor) on assistance that can be given.
   2. **Traffic Management** – WBA concerned about impact of traffic management on local businesses and want to ensure businesses are included in the discussions for any proposals. Members meeting is being arranged with WPC, will be publicized once arranged.
   3. **Christmas Market** – New Xmas committee members recruited this year. Market stalls nearly all sold. 4 spaces remain.
3. **Election of Committee** – No new candidates put forward. All existing committee members duly elected for another year. One vacancy to be advertised.
4. **Watlington Businesses Update –** 
   1. **Drapes –** After 40 fabulous years trading in Watlington Drapes Designs closed its doors at the end of September. Fabrics & wallpapers can still be ordered at special trade prices through Belle 01491 612273 or [belle@drapes.co.uk](mailto:belle@drapes.co.uk). Martin & Karla are now focusing on their holiday let, [Pineapple Apartment](https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/24117030?source_impression_id=p3_1665404730_yEVgYqBXuPO4gnYx).
   2. **Tutu –** after 11 wonderful yearsmaking delicious chocolates Zoe, Simon & Liza areclosing Tutu. Their last trading day will be 24th Dec. The WBA are hopeful that another local chocolate shop may replace them.
   3. **Fat Fox Inn –** Currentlyclosed.The WBA understand thatBrakspear are trying to secure a new landlord.
   4. **Granary Deli –** Robin & Fran are celebrating the deli’s 20th anniversary on Friday 14th Oct with a cheese & wine night. Congratulations and thank you from all of us at the WBA on being the heart of the High Street for the past 20 years!
   5. **White Mark Glamping –** on 4 in a bed 3rd - 7th Oct on Channel 4. Features the Spire & Spoke and Granary Café too!
   6. **Orange Bakery –** on Nadiya Bakes BB2.
5. **AOB –** none.

**Appendix**

**Current Members:**

1. Apex Healthcare Consulting
2. Robinson Sherston
3. Stefanie O’Bryen Solicitors
4. Jones & Jacobs
5. Stilla Hem
6. Calnan Brothers
7. SO Sustainable
8. Granary Deli
9. Orange Bakery
10. The Undercroft
11. Watlington Fine Wines
12. Bella Luce
13. Watlington Wellness Centre
14. The Spire & Spoke
15. Rainbow Corner Day Nursery
16. The Watlington Club
17. David Parker Architects
18. Purple Architects
19. Hudson Automotive
20. St Lo Gioiello (*joined post meeting*)

TBC

1. Angie Paterson
2. Logic Finance