



## Council Meeting of Sark Chamber of Commerce

Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009, 5:30pm at Le Petite Poule Courtyard

Present were; Peter Tonks, Paul Armorgie, Phil Falle, Tony Le Leivre, David Gordon-Brown & Bob Parsons

Apologies were received from Christine Audrain & Michelle Perree.

The recent Open Forum meeting with Peter Roffey was discussed. It was felt the meeting had been successful and should be followed up with further similar events.

Advocate and former States of Guernsey deputy, Roger Perrot, Charles Maitland, Tenant of Herm, John Singer (possibly with his marketing manager) also Chairmen of Guernsey and Jersey Chambers of Commerce were listed as possible future guest speakers

It was felt beneficial to build on commerce and general working relationships with other islands through guest speakers.

PT advised that he will be off island for the October members' meeting.

PT advised that Simon Couldridge was not able to plan another street market for the current year but that he intends to hold two or three similar events during 2010.

Members Buffet and Awards Evening to be at Stumbles on 30<sup>th</sup> October. SCOC Council meeting to discuss presentation night, categories etc., will be in Petite Poule Tuesday 6th October 2009, 5.30pm.

Paul and Phil are organizing dinner at Stumbles.

Christmas Lights switch on target date is Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. DG-B to make contact with Julie Mann (IoSS), Simon or Kevin Adams (Carol Singers) and Sarah Cottle (School) regarding Switch on ceremony, also with Miss Sark Princess and Fred Teers. BP to contact Jenny Mullin (and Oscar Puffin) who may also be available to take part.

Tony Ventress has asked CoC to comment on:

- a cost of living index for Sark, including IoSS and housing costs
- a Sark Minimum Wage based on the above mentioned index

- Contracts of employment to include, where appropriate, division of gratuities, annual leave and public holidays.

It was felt it could be useful to have a cost of living index but this would probably have to be based on the Guernsey index with weighting for the additional costs of getting to Guernsey, fuel and energy costs and freight costs relating to items brought into Sark. It was noted that Sark has no administration to put this together, which would incur a cost and that there are so many variables in rents, ground rents etc which reflect on pricing, that we believe our suggestion of weighting is the only way forward.

It was considered a minimum wage would be unenforceable as there is no requirement for employers to disclose the amounts they pay staff or for employees to disclose their earnings. To achieve this there would be a need for some considerable level of bureaucracy, similar to that in the UK for collecting tax and NI contributions. The cost would outweigh any benefits.

It was also thought incomprehensible that anyone would take on staff without giving the employee details of the terms of employment. Such details should be included in a letter of engagement and it is hoped this would be the accepted norm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at approximately 6:45pm

Bob Parsons (minute taker)

1<sup>st</sup> September 2009