



Council Meeting of Sark Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday 5th May 2009, at Sark Estate Agents

Present: D. Gordon-Brown, M. Perree, B. Parsons, T. le Lievre, P. Tonks, J. Donnelly, C. Audrain (sec)

Apologies: P. Armorgie, P. Burgess

Discussion took place about the necessity to make a statement from the Chamber re Sark Shipping. Although a clear case has been made by the company for the rise in fares and the present schedule, there are problems, eg –

- Lack of Early Bird fares has had an adverse effect on visitor numbers, the recent Bank Holiday was particularly quiet

- Cargo times are not helpful to local businesses and if the cargo were correctly loaded it could come into the island at 9am and be delivered by 10.30

Costs are continually quoted in defence of the present arrangements, but in fact, ships are lying idle for long periods of time and underuse of ships is a luxury we cannot afford.

Trident is the most cost-effective vessel and we really should have retained its services, it is not available this year.

It was agreed that T. le L would take our concerns to Sark Shipping and a working group of T. le L, M.P. and B. P. would produce a statement for the Chamber, also that B. P. would approach P. Roffey who has written a helpful article about the subject of Sark Shipping, suggesting that co-operation with other companies might be useful to us.

Website: A cheque needs to be paid for our website. Another domain will be secured.

Programme of future meetings: PT will plan this and CDA will pass it on to members. Some ideas are:

- Discussion document from Cons. S. Henry

- Twinning of Sark with a French location – celebration of S. Magloire Day

- M. P. has a contact who could talk to us about Human Rights issues

- Events in the island to bring in tourism trade, eg, 'It's a Knockout!'

Membership: We need to remind members to renew subs. Some of above ideas might motivate members to take a more active part.

C. Audrain (Sec) 6. 5. 09