

MINUTES

2023 Annual General Meeting of

Oswestry BID Limited (Company No. 10675349)

Venue: via Zoom **Date:** Tuesday 14th November 2023

Attendees:

- Tania McGee - Lanyon Bowdler – Chair
- Patrick Evans - Evans Enterprises
- Lee Lucks - Oswestry Borderland Tourism
- Carl Thomas – Furrows
- Jordan Trefene – Oswalds Taxis
- Dawn Edwards – Covent Garden Food Market Ltd
- Tim Morris – Booka Bookshop
- Mark Derham - Bridge Coffee
- Kev Griffiths – Griffiths Tool Hire
- Matt Potts – Shropshire Council
- Lisa Hobs – Morris Cook
- John Waine – Honorary Officer (Oswestry BID)
- Adele Nightingale - BID Manager
- Lindsey Pierce – BID Assistant Manager

Welcome and Apologies

Tania McGee, as Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed Members and observers.

She noted that this was the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Oswestry BID Limited.

Apologies:

- Simon Williams – Cold Move

Actions from last AGM:

- None arising

Minutes from last AGM:

- Minutes accepted as a true and accurate record.

Director’s Report for April 2022 to March 2023, presented by Tania McGee

Raising the Profile:

Oswestry BID is actively raising the profile of Oswestry, its businesses and events, locally, regionally and nationally.

- Produced a range of videos showcasing Oswestry's business sectors reaching 552,799 viewers and counting.
- Developed the first "Oswestry Find It Buy It" directories for the Industrial Estates and Town Centre.
- Partnered with Oswestry Borderland Tourism (OBT), to produce and distribute 120,000 town maps both nationally and Shropshire-wide. In-town map holders also installed at key visitor points. The partnership between BID and OBT has amplified Oswestry's visitor message regionally and across the UK.
- Enhanced the town's event calendar with the Halloween Dome, The Street Circus, Jubilee Beach and active support for Oswestry Balloon Carnival, Oswestry Food & Drink Festival, Oswestry Community Games and Cae Glas Live.
- Promoted local businesses and events through our OneOswestry website and social media platforms with an all-time social media reach of 2.6 million.

Business Support:

Actively supporting the growth and development of existing local businesses:

- Key partner in bringing £1.8m new investment through heritage action zone fund to enhance shop fronts, heritage alleyways and additional residential units.
- Secured £105,000 in additional funding for Oswestry.
- Over 390 local business members have attended our free programme of training and workshops.
- Accessed and promoted significant Oswestry business support grants for Covid recovery.
- Worked with Cambrian Heritage Railways and partners to secure Government funding of £50,000 to help develop the Strategic Business Case to reconnect Oswestry to the national rail network.
- Provided access to free bespoke Business Mentoring which was well received by participating businesses.
- Successful Night Bus Initiative to boost the night-time economy over the Christmas period and extended through 2022.

Great Place to be:

To build upon Oswestry's multi-faceted heritage and cultural assets to further develop a welcoming, vibrant & enriching environment where visitors, workers & residents want to be.

- Targeted cleaning of town centre and industrial estate area including litter picks, jet washing, sign cleaning, and weed removal, to spruce up the trading environment.
- Install attractive Festoon lighting in key areas of the town centre, to enhance the night-time economy, whilst making a big difference in safety and accessibility.
- To put up colourful bunting throughout the town centre that added to the welcoming atmosphere, and enhance the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, making it a more pleasant place for customers to be and improving the trading environment.
- Provide free town centre WiFi with currently over 1,200 registered users with over 15,000 monthly connections improving dwell times and providing an additional platform for promoting businesses and events.
- Introduced Footfall counters to monitor town visits, planning data collection, and support inward investment.

- BID's business advocacy and lobbying of local authorities to open up space on Festival Square to allow nearby businesses to allow customers to sit and be served.

Access & Safety:

To facilitate safe, functional and efficient access and navigation for visitors, workers, residents and businesses.

- Championed and coordinated new traffic management for the Maes-YClawdd, Mile Oak and Radfords Field industrial estates to improve safety and access for staff and customers.
- Erected signage on industrial estates to ease navigation, improve accessibility, and enhance recognition.
- Established nightly security patrols protecting around 130 industrial estate and town businesses.
- Extended the defibrillator provision and the CCTV and Traffic Monitoring network in both the town centre and the industrial estates.
- Added several vehicle activated signs (VAS) on Maes-Y-Clawdd and Mile Oak industrial estates to reduce speed, improve safety and collect traffic speed data.

Treasurers Report, Lisa Hobbs:

- Discussed the Profit and Loss account, highlighting the breakdown of expenditure.
- Confirmed that micro-accounts have been filed at Companies house as the BID is a non-profit a full profit and loss is not required.

Questions:

None

Appointment Directors:

Tania McGee, confirmed the current list of Directors, before confirming that as per the Articles, four Directors (25%) would be standing down. The following Directors were standing down,

- Lee Lucks
- Graeme Kirkham
- Carl Thomas
- Kev Griffiths

The following Directors offered themselves for re-election:

- Lee Lucks
- Graeme Kirkham
- Carl Thomas
- Kev Griffiths

Vote

- Lee Lucks, nomination seconded by Tania McGee
- **Unanimously agreed**

- Graeme Kirkham, nomination seconded by Carl Thomas
- **Unanimously agreed**
- Carl Thomas, nomination seconded by Lee Lucks
- **Unanimously agreed**
- Kev Griffiths, nomination seconded by Patrick Evans
- **Unanimously agreed**

AOB

Lee Lucks: Would like to thank the Team for all their hard work.

There being no further business, Tania McGee thanked everyone for attending and pronounced the meeting formally closed.

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Tania McGee, Chair