



Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held at Just Eat, The Place, London at 11am on Tuesday 2nd April 2019.

Committee in attendance:

Geoff Parsons, Basilico (Chairman)
Richard Harrow, Freiburger
Ian Kent, Stateside
Julie Sloan, Dawn Farms
Richard Norman, Jestic
Lynne Utting, Glanbia
Maurice Abboudi
Seth Gulliver, Just Eat
James Faulkner, Leathams
Alan Ribakovs, Whitworths

Secretariat:

Jim Winship
Sam Day

Apologies:

Keith Griffiths, Pizza Hut (Vice-Chairman)
Rup Zani, Pizza Express
Phillip Quinn, Papa Johns
Eddie Grimes, Surgital

Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved.

Committee

The committee welcomed Richard Norman from Jestic and congratulated Richard Harrow on his new appointment as CEO of the British Frozen Food Federation.

Brexit and Immigration

The meeting discussed the workforces shortages which are already being felt due to EU workers returning home and not being replaced which is creating a huge employment problem for the whole food industry. It was agreed that the Association could not do more in terms of lobbying on this issue while the Government is in disarray

over the Brexit Agreement but it should continue to press its case when opportunities arise.

In the meantime, the Association is developing messaging through its magazine and on-line to promote the industry as a good and fun place to work and to build a career, particularly highlighting examples of people who have worked their way up to top jobs in the industry.

PHE Calorie Reduction Programme

The Association responded to PHE's revised calorie proposals in January urging them to reconsider their proposed targets, which were felt to be flawed and unachievable.

Since then, with the help of Stateside Foods and ex-MP Andrew Bingham, an approach was made to Steve Brine MP, the Minister responsible for Public Health England to express the industry's concerns over the PHE targets and approach. This resulted in a meeting with Richard Sangster, the civil servant responsible for PHE strategy.

At this meeting, which was attended by Ian Kent, Richard Harrow and Jim Winship, the industry's concerns were outlined along with a proposal for total calories to be labelling on the front of packs so that consumers do not have to calculate this as they do when calories are expressed per 100g. This was positively received by the meeting and the team was asked if it would be supported by the wider food industry.

Following this meeting, Jim Winship held meetings with the British Retail Consortium, the Food & Drink Federation and the British Sandwich & Food to Go Association all of which said they would support the approach in principle. The British Nutrition Foundation has also since written to say that it would support the concept.

The meeting agreed that the food industry needed to come off the back foot and become more pro-active in addressing the obesity crisis.

Although Steve Brine has since resigned as Minister, the Association will continue to put forward its case via Richard Sangster in the absence of a new Minister being appointed.

The Association has produced a Position Statement on this which is available on the PAPA website.

Allergens

Although the pizza, pasta and Italian food industry is not currently involved directly in the discussions on allergen labelling regarding foods packaged for 'direct sale', the results are likely to be applied to the wider foodservice sector. As part of the current negotiations, the Association has been arguing that applying allergen labelling in a foodservice environment would carry greater risks due to the risks of cross contamination in kitchen environments. By specifically labelling the allergens a particular product contains, consumers could be misled into believing them to be safe.

The provision of written ingredient lists, with a statement about all the allergens used in the business, means consumers with other ingredient issues can also obtain the guidance they need.

Waste

Since the last meeting the Association has produced a position statement on waste which is available on its website. In general the Association supports Michael Gove's proposals for a national waste strategy, although a coherent approach to waste collection is likely to be some years away. In the meantime, the Association is awaiting further detail on the proposed 'taxes' on un-recyclable packaging waste before making formal comment.

Salt

Jim Winship told the meeting that new salt targets are likely to be set by PHE. Richard Harrow, however, felt that they were more likely to go after categories that had not achieved the 2017 targets.

Awards

The meeting agreed that all award categories should remain the same for 2019. However, it was agreed that the Association should develop a new 'Rising Star' award to either launch this year or in 2020.

Sam Day to look at how the Baking Industry Awards run and judge their ambassador category.

Concern was expressed over the sound levels in the corners of the room at the dinner. The Association to discuss this with the AV company.

It was agreed that using a comedian to run the awards worked well. Rod Woodward has been booked for 2019.

PAPA Report

The meeting briefly discussed the 2019 PAPA Report and the value in distributing this to MPs and opinion formers as a tool for getting the industry's position across more effectively. It was suggested that this might be launched at the House of Commons, although Jim Winship reported that the cost was likely to be around £25,000 to do this.

EPPS Show

Jim Winship reported that the show was looking positive for 2019 and that the Association has been pressing the organizers to establish a better line-up of speakers and to market these more effectively.

This year the show will take place over three days with the awards in the middle on the Thursday night..

Pizza Chef Competitions

Sam Day reported that the Association is keen to encourage more chefs to enter the Pizza and Pasta Chef competitions, particularly from some of the major chains.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 11th June 2019. Venue to be confirmed.