



Minutes of AGM and Management Committee Meeting held at Just Eat, Fleet Place, London at 11am on Wednesday 23rd, January 2019

Present:

Geoff Parsons, Basilico (Chair)
Keith Griffiths, Pizza Hut (vice-Chair)
Lynne Utting, Glanbia
Alan Ribakovs, Whitworths
Phil Goodall, Stateside
Richard Harrow, Freiburger Foods
Seth Gulliver, Just Eat
Rupi Zani, Pizza Express
Julie Sloan, Dawn Farm Foods
Maurice Abboudi, Consultant
Jim Winship, PAPA
Sandra Bennett, PAPA

Apologies:

Nazir Mackmood, Kiren Foods
Richard Norman, Jestic
James Faulkner, Leathams
Richard Thorpe, Ornuia
Philip Quinn, Papa John
Eddie Grimes, Surgital
Ian Kent, Stateside

Election of Committee

Following the elections, Phillip Quinn (Papa John), Nazir Mackmood (Kiren Foods) and Richard Norman (Jestic) are all joining the Committee. Guiseppe Motisi (Salvo) has stood down.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were approved.

Priorities for 2019

These were agreed. These were circulated in advance of the meeting.

Brexit and Immigration

Jim Winship reported that the Association had responded to a Migration Advisory Committee call for evidence in relation to the Shortage Occupation List which currently excludes chefs working in a 'fast food outlet, a standard fare outlet or an establishment which provides a takeaway service'. The 'Shortage List' currently applies to immigrants coming to the UK from outside the UK but is likely to be applied to EU workers after Brexit.

In its response, the Association highlighted the fact that the industry is already struggling to fill vacancies, particularly for pizzaioli and Italian chefs, delivery drivers, front of house staff and food handlers in manufacturing.

The Association is also continuing to talk to Members of Parliament about its concerns over immigration controls and, following a meeting with Liberal Democratic MP Tom Brake, undertook some research into realistic salary levels in the industry. Currently, the minimum salary requirement for an immigrant to earn from outside the EU is £30,000. More realistically it should be between £18-20,000.

PHE Calorie Reduction Programme

The Association responded to PHE's proposals in December, challenging some of the data being used in relation to the OOH sector. As a result, PHE reviewed the data and found that it included slice sales. Consequently, the target data was revised and the industry has been given until the end of January to respond to the proposed new targets.

The Association is waiting for some feedback from operators before responding to PHE.

When it does, it will also re-emphasize its position generally and has been working on a position statement setting out how it believes effective action can be taken by the food industry in partnership with Government to address the obesity crisis. This includes clearer and more informative labelling; the setting of realistic calorie targets for specific products; and the development of an effective public awareness campaign.

The intention is to develop a clear but concise document setting out the industry's proposals that can be shared with PHE, other trade bodies, Ministers, Members of Parliament and the media – as appropriate. The Association does, however, not intend to go public with this document until PHE concludes its current consultation. In advance of that it would only be used with PHE, Ministers and a few key MPs.

Although some concern was expressed about the potential commercial implications of declaring total calories on products, the meeting agreed that the industry needs to be seen to be taking positive steps towards tackling obesity.

It was also agreed that the PHE 400:600:600 message should be supported as part of this position statement, although some clarification may be needed around this in terms of the allowance made for snacking.

The meeting felt that education/public awareness is the critical factor in tackling the obesity crisis. Indeed, it was argued that education is the key to change as it would in turn drive demand for healthier products which would, in turn, be seen as a business opportunity.

It was also agreed that the same approach should be applied across the food industry, including micro-businesses, but that some assistance will be needed to help smaller operators to provide 'typical' calorie information.

Once drafted, the Association's position statement will be circulated to Committee Members.

Allergens

Jim Winship reported that following the Pret a Manage incident, he had held meetings with Government officials and had drafted new guidance on dealing with allergens which was approved and circulated to members just prior to Christmas. That guidance

has now also been accepted as Assured Advice by the industry's Primary Authority and the Food Standards Agency has agreed to its 'EasytoASK' logo being used by the industry for instore messaging.

In December Jim Winship also met the Secretary of State at Defra Michael Gove to discuss the demand for full labelling which has arisen as a result of his meeting the parents of Natasha, who died as a result of eating a Pret sandwich. At the meeting he explained the difficulties and substantial risks involved if foodservice businesses are required to fully label products.

Michael Gove has committed to holding a consultation on the issue, which is expected to be announced shortly. As there is likely to be a strong lobby from consumer groups for full labelling, it will be important that the industry responds effectively on this issue.

The Government is also planning to review the list of allergens that must be declared, but this is unlikely to be imminent, with the weight of legislation changes needed following Brexit. Currently there are 14 allergens on the 'must be declared' list but some of these are not common in the UK and there are others which some groups would like to see added.

Salt Targets

In December, PHE announced the results of a review of the 2017 salt reduction targets and acknowledged that the pizza industry had succeeded in meeting these. Their measure of success was whether products were within 5% of the targets set.

The PHE review did not state where they would go next with salt reduction but there is a concern that new targets will be set. If so it is unlikely that the industry will be able to go much further than it already has.

Environment/Waste

Just before Christmas, the Defra published a strategy document on tackling environmental waste, including the re-organisation of collection systems and the imposition of taxes on some plastic and hard-to-recycle packaging. A full consultation is expected on this shortly.

Awards Review

There was a general discussion around the awards in November, which were generally felt to have been a success. It was felt that the comedienne/presenter did a good job in holding the attention of the audience.

Some discussion arose over the order the awards are presented in and it was explained that this was designed to control the noise levels in the room. However, Sandra Bennett told the meeting that some changes were planned to the order awards are presented in during the second half of the presentations.

The meeting also discussed the launch of a Young Ambassador award, aimed at recognizing young people coming into the industry and making a successful career out of it. The Secretariat will circulate a narrative for this new award to the committee for further discussion.

Annual Report

The meeting supported the continued publication of this and agreed that it should be circulated more widely to opinion formers and politicians.

EPPS Show

The meeting briefly discussed the show. Jim Winship said that he was liaising with the organisers about developing a more effective seminar programme for the future. Last year the recruitment of speakers was left too late and the seminars were badly publicised.

There has been a delay in obtaining full details of the visitors to the show due to a computer database issue. However, this is now resolved and the information should be available shortly.

It was suggested that the Italian Government should be approached to give more support to the show.

British Glass

Jim Winship told the meeting that he was talking to British Glass about sponsoring an environmental award for the industry. This would not necessarily be part of the industry awards. Jim to explore further and circulate details to the Committee.

Happerley

Jim Winship reported that he had met with the organisers of Happerley, an organization which has been set up to help businesses establish the provenance of their products. Currently they are working with a number of brands and retailers, including the Midland Co-op. He suggested that it might be worth exploring whether their approach might help small businesses manage their traceability obligations.

Delivery

Jim Winship reported that the police have recently issued new guidance on delivery. New BSI standards have also been published for motorcycle protective clothing.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting should be changed, subject to Just Eat being able to provide a meeting room.