



# WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 6pm  
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

### Minutes

**Present:** Helen Thorne, Cathy Wiggan, Sue White, Emma Lee, Sam Parr, Beryl Griffiths, Andy Hunt, Terry Sanford, Michael Coate, Des Hawkins, Dave Mitton, John Pragnell, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Andrew Govier, Ian Stock, Jane Burden.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Frank Morris, Louise Tredwin, Jackie Govier, Judith Goss and Janet Reed.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were agreed by the Chamber and signed off by Sue White.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from last year's minutes.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

Sue White reported that she felt it had been a productive year for the Chamber, playing a part in halting the rise on car parking charges in Wellington, supporting the mental health unit at Chelston, hosting the Wellington Boot Throwing Championships and being involved in the Wellington Food Town event. However there have been bad vibes from traders with regards to the Chamber, and there has been no response or feedback from the newspaper article about the possibility of the collapse of the Chamber.

Traders have said that they feel there are not enough traders involved, and that they do not get anything for their money and don't receive any feedback.

The Chamber agreed that plenty of feedback in the form of emails out to members, and a brief synopsis of the minutes in the Wellington Weekly. If traders don't join the Chamber or come to the meetings, then there will never be more traders involved.

It was then brought up about the Christmas trading arrangements, which have been organised without the Chamber's involvement. Terry Sanford stated the Chamber are there to serve the members, and that the Chamber is there to help such initiatives and if everyone joined together as a whole things would be much more productive. This is why the Chamber came up with the 5 year plan. If members don't value what we are trying to do, is it worth wasting everyone's time and trying to help our members.

Dave Mitton told the Chamber not to despair, and that people don't attend meetings as much anymore. People will go off and organise things separately, the best thing is to add on to it as that is how things progress.

Jane Burden then introduced herself as the Secretary of Taunton Chamber of Trade and Commerce. She said that many of the Chamber's across Somerset are facing the same problems, and as a result they are looking at whether there is more that they can offer their members. She suggested that there may be opportunities for the two Chambers to support each other and share initiatives and ideas.

Michael Coate said that he felt the Chamber had been successful in helping to promote the Farmer's Market, and that the Chamber is here to help members. He also said that the Chamber does have a voice in the Wellington Weekly newspaper, and suggested that something be put in the paper asking traders/businesses to write to the Chamber regarding anything that they feel the Chamber should be discussing or dealing with at meetings.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Helen Thorne reported to the Chamber that she felt there were financial implications as to whether the Chamber should continue. There are now only

39 members, most of which pay £30 each per year and currently 40% of this goes on administration expenses. The Chamber is going to need to be tight on spending out this year, and in addition to this continue to try and recruit more members.

It was suggested that perhaps the newsletter should be sent out to a wider audience than just Chamber members so that people know the sorts of things that the Chamber are doing. It was also suggested to send it out to old members in the hope that it may entice them into rejoining.

## 5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2011/2012

Before the election could go ahead, Sue White asked the committee members to vote on the continuation of the Chamber. The Chamber voted with a majority verdict to continue, and the motion was carried.

President Terry Sanford  
Proposed by: Sue White  
Seconded by: Des Hawkins and John Pragnell

Chairman Sue White  
Proposed by: Terry Sanford  
Seconded by: Des Hawkins

Treasurer  
Helen Thorne has agreed to continue in this post until a replacement is found.

Vice-Chairman: Des Hawkins  
Proposed by: John Pragnell  
Seconded by: Sam Parr

Social Secretary Sam Parr  
Proposed by: Des Hawkins  
Seconded by: Terry Sanford

Economic & Development Representative John Pragnell  
Proposed by: Sue White  
Seconded by: Cathy Wiggan

Taunton Deane Partnership Representative John Pragnell  
Proposed by: Sue White  
Seconded by: Des Hawkins

It was agreed that Ian Stock and Sue White would stand as Somerset Chamber representatives.

**7. Any Other Business**

Chamber member's discussed whether meetings should be kept monthly, or whether they should be changed to bi-monthly meetings in the hope that this may encourage more members to attend.

It was decided that the Chamber meetings would move to a bi-monthly arrangement, starting from January 2012.

**The meeting closed at 7.05pm.**