



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

Minutes

Present: Terry Sanford, Emma Blake, Sue White, Helen Thorne, John Pragnell, Andy Hunt, John Thorne, Nick Lawrence, Des Hawkins, Frank Morris, Clare d'Ruyter, Cathy Wiggan, Andrew Govier, Jackie Govier, Michael Coate, Vivienne Stock-Williams

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Judith Goss, Debby Standfast, Joan Herrington, Janet Reed, Sam Parr, Herman Topuzoglu, Dave Mitton and Julia Thorne.

2. Guest Speaker – Nick Lawrence of Moore Scarrott Partnership

The Chamber welcomed guest speaker Nick Lawrence, an Associate Partner of Moore Scarrott Partnership Chartered Accountants. He gave a brief background of the company, which began in 2001 in West Buckland and has recently moved to larger premises in Taunton as the company now has three Associate Partners and employs 45 members of staff. The practice covers four main areas of accounting; General Practice, Agriculture and Rural Business, Veterinary Sector and Forensic Accounting.

Mr Lawrence's presentation covered the current Income Tax structure and National Insurance. He then went on to talk about the advantages and

disadvantages of trading options; Sole Trader, Traditional Partnership, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) and Limited Company.

Mr Lawrence informed the Chamber that prospective new clients can contact Moore Scarrott Partnership and have a no-obligation consultation regarding their business' accountancy needs. The Chamber thanked Mr Lawrence for an interesting and informative presentation.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

John Pragnell pointed out that the 'Parish Plan' meeting held by Wellington Town Council on Monday 20th June 2011 was not open to the general public as reported in the minutes.

This was noted, and the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 2011 were then agreed and signed of by Sue White, Chamber Chair.

4. Matters Arising

Food Town

John Pragnell reported that plans for the Food Town are going well and there has been a lot of interest. Approximately half of the 60 available stalls have already been taken.

Two more sponsorship deals have been secured, one with Gibbins Richards and one with Waitrose. The advertising posters are now printed and ready to be taken around the local shops and businesses.

Farmer's Market

Michael Coate told the Chamber that the Farmer's Market have found the last couple of months quite quiet. The Co-op car park has been pretty quiet as the Farmer's Market customers have said that they are not happy with paying the new car parking fees, although the Farmer's Market Committee are hoping to see an increase in the next couple of months with holiday makers.

Michael Coate asked the Chamber whether anyone knew anything about community funding available for leaflets etc. Terry Sanford replied that the Farmer's Market Committee would need to put together a package to forward to the Wellington Town Council and that the best person to speak to regarding this would be the Wellington Town Clerk, Greg Dyke.

Make It Local Map

Terry Sanford handed out copies of the finished 'Make It Local' map to Chamber members. They are ready to be handed out to all the shops within the town, and also the Tourist Information office.

An interactive version of the map is also available on www.wellingtonchamber.co.uk. The user can hover over any of the shops/businesses to bring up further information. The information currently available to the user is the precise address and the type of business, however

proprietors are able to have more information put on the map (which can also include a link to the business website). Prices for this added information are £5 for Chamber members, and £10 for non-members. If anyone wants to do this they should contact Andy Hunt from Quantum Enterprises www.quantumenterprises.co.uk.

Wellington Weekly News are going to run a press release about the new map, and a competition will be run whereby entrants have to find three 'Royal' references. The prize for this competition has yet to be decided.

Andy Hunt suggested a monthly update at each meeting to keep any changes that need to be made to the interactive map up-to-date.

5. Any Other Business

Queen's Jubilee Meeting

From 2nd-5th June 2012 the country will be celebrating a 4 day holiday in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Wellington Town Council are hoping to co-ordinate a programme of events which will be run by local groups over the long weekend. They will be holding a public meeting on Friday 22nd July at 7pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, for the Town Council to explain what they hope to do in terms of overseeing and co-ordinating as well as hearing the general public's suggestions and ideas.

Chamber Subscriptions

Terry Sanford commented on the fact that there are still quite a number of Chamber members who have not paid their 2010 – 2011 subscriptions, leaving the Chamber short of funds. It was suggested that Emma Blake pass on a list of those outstanding so that these members can be chased up for their subscription fees.

10K race

Sue White told the Chamber that she had been approached by Terry Milton regarding the Wellington 10K race which is to be held on Sunday 10th July 2011.

He is currently looking for volunteers for Car Park Marshalling at Wellington Sports Centre. They are needed from 8.30am to approximately midday, and food will be provided. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Terry Milton on 01823 661111.

Wellbeing Workshop

Clare d'Ruyter informed the Chamber that she had been contacted by Jan Copley regarding holding a Wellbeing Workshop within the town. The concept is to promote well-being within the town, the idea being that local shops are a big contributor towards the well-being of the community. Jan Copley was hoping that the Chamber would be able to organise and promote the event during the Festival Fortnight in September.

Sue White commented that although she feels that it is a great idea, the Chamber's commitment during this time is the World Wellington Boot Throwing Championship Event and the Chamber does not have enough people willing to help out with things to add another event to the list at that time. It was suggested that Clare d'Ruyter pass on the details to Stacey Faulkner of Nature and Nurture, and that perhaps she may be willing to help with the event.

The Sandwich Stop

Cathy Wiggan presented the Chamber with a card, and some lovely cakes for the meeting, to say thank you for the bottle of bubbly presented to them at the last meeting and also to thank the Chamber for their support of The Sandwich Stop over the last ten years.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.