



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday 25th May 2011 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

Minutes

Present: John Pragnell, Andy Hunt, Alison Stock, Des Hawkins, Frank Morris, Judith Goss, Helen Thorne, Emma Blake, Sue White, David Mitton, Sam Parr, Julia Thorne, Cathy Wiggan and Ian Stock.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Govier, Jackie Govier, Janet Reed, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Terry Sanford and John Thorne.

2. Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

The Chamber welcomed guest speaker Bill Sivewright, who is the Chief Executive of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. The head office is based at Chelston Business Park, and has been for the past three years since its move from Taunton Ambulance Station.

Bill gave a fascinating talk to members about the life-saving work of the air ambulance and the approximate 700 call outs per year over the two counties. He told members that the helicopter costs around £1.4 million per year to keep flying, which equates to £3,800 per day. This money has to be found

through fundraising alone, as the charity receives no funding from the Government or the National Lottery.

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance have a number of ways in which the general public can support them. They hold a weekly 'Flight for Life' lottery, they have many supporters who hold fundraising events (or take part in the charities own events such as the upcoming 'Coast to Coast' cycle ride) and they also have companies which become Corporate Partners whereby they help to raise money and awareness for the charity.

For more information about Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and to find out how you can support them visit their website www.dsairambulance.org.uk.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

David Mitton pointed out that the previous meeting's minutes told of a small increase in the number of PCSO's in the area, however he said that because the area that they cover has been widened it actually leads to a reduction in the number.

This was noted, and the minutes of Wednesday 27th April 2011 were then agreed and signed off by Sue White.

4. Matters Arising

South Street

Cathy Wiggan reported on behalf of the South Street traders that the Royal Wedding day event went well, although they felt that perhaps in hindsight they had started too early and finished too early because it became very busy as things were drawing to a close. All in all though it was felt that they had a very positive response.

Make It Local Map

Ian Stock reported that the first draft has now been completed, a copy of which was passed round for member's to have a look at, and is now at the stage where it needs proof-reading.

A full report on the map will hopefully be available at the next meeting from Terry Sanford.

Wellington Dreamscheme

Sue White informed the Chamber that PCSO Pearl Hine had been in contact with her regarding a scheme that has been piloted in Highbridge, called Dreamscheme. It is a community youth development scheme based on a simple concept of work, points and trips. Young people are enabled to carry out community based work projects for which they earn points which can then be exchanged for trips and activities of their choice.

It is hoped that a scheme of this sort could work in Wellington, giving young people something to do and a sense of community – hopefully decreasing the amount of anti-social behaviour.

Volunteers to help run the scheme in Highbridge were found in the local community, and if anyone is interested in learning more about the possibility of the scheme in Wellington please contact PCSO Hine at Pearl.Hine@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

Food Town

John Pragnell told the Chamber that everything is going well for the Food Town event to be held on Saturday 3rd September 2011. So far 20 stalls have been booked and paid for, with another 7 others that will hopefully confirm soon. There are 60 stalls available in total, however John said that traders are notorious for booking their stalls late so they are happy with that figure at the moment.

The Wellington Food Town Committee is currently seeking some funding from the Wellington Town Council to help meet the costs of the event.

For more information regarding the event traders can visit the website www.wellingtonfoodtown.co.uk, and anyone wishing to book a stall should contact Donna Munson from Rule 7 in the High Street.

Wellington Town Council

David Mitton informed the Chamber that the top end of Cornhill (owned by Mr Perry) is nearly complete and should re-open soon, however the remainder of the site is still waiting for the owner to decide what they are going to do.

With regards to the Wellington Monument, the National Trust (who own the site) have got a group of surveyors in at the moment checking what repairs can be done. Unfortunately because the National Trust receive no income from the Monument they are struggling to come up with the huge amount of money it will cost to restore it.

Next year sees the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and the Town Council are hoping to mark this with events that will also help to promote the town. This will be in February, and then October will mark the 200 year anniversary of the Duke of Wellington. They are looking for any ideas for events that can be held for both of these celebrations.

Wellington Town Council are holding a meeting on Monday 20th June regarding the 'Parish Plan' to decide what they can do to improve the town over the next four or five years. The meeting is open to the public, although the venue is yet to be decided.

5. Treasurer's Report

Helen Thorne reported to the Chamber that the account balance currently stands at £2073.06, which includes a £1188 bridging loan from Wellington Town Council for the 'Make It Local' map. This is £500 down on last year,

due to unpaid subscriptions and some loss from last year's World Wellington Boot Throwing Championship.

£200 has been moved into a separate account, which is the money made from the raffle at the Wellington Boot Throwing. It has been decided that this will be split between the Wellington Majorettes and the Scouts.

It has been decided that this year's raffle proceeds will go to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

6. Any Other Business

Andy Hunt informed the Chamber that he has decided to offer any Chamber member a 10% discount on web re-design or a new website, with 5% going to the Chamber.

Sue White wished Cathy and Phil Wiggan a very happy 10th anniversary of the Sandwich Stop.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.