



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

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

Minutes

Present: Sue White, Cathy Wiggan, Sam Parr, Jackie Govier, Helen Thorne, Michael Coate, Alison Stock, Frank Morris, Andy Hunt and Eliana Sydes.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Herman Topologuez, Des Hawkins, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Ian Stock, Terry Sanford, Janet Reed, Andrew Govier, Judith Goss and Dave Mitton.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th July 2011 were agreed and signed off.

3. Matters Arising

Wellington Town Council

Jackie Govier reported a meeting with First Bus Company between 13 of the town councillor's on 15th September with reference to the cuts in the Rockwell Green bus service. They are now going to do a health and safety assessment and let us know if there are any traffic alterations that Wellington Town Council could consider that would allow the bus service to continue.

There was also an update about Wellington Monument. The National Trust have put a team in place led by a community and volunteering Project Manager. The trust has joined up with Southampton University and will work on the proposed repairs. English Heritage will have to agree before the Trust will action the repairs. They have promised to keep the Council updated.

Saturday Christmas free car parking was confirmed. Taunton Deane will give free parking in Wellington on the four days leading up to Christmas (3, 10, 17, 24 Dec 2011). Chamber members also asked if there may be other days of free parking and South Street Car Parking was discussed again with Chamber members expressed a desire for lower parking charges and better signage.

Wellington Farmer's Market

Michael Coate reported that the recent Food Town had been good for the Farmer's Market, as had the free parking. He asked whether it is possible for the free parking to be extended to every Saturday, not just in the lead up to Christmas.

Interactive Map

Andy Hunt informed the Chamber that as yet no-one has contacted him to get extra details put onto the interactive map on the Chamber website.

He also asked for the paper town map to be reviewed as there is a new jewellery shop in the old Porter & Fry shop, the Electrical Shop has closed down and Ben Simmond's photography has moved premises.

4. World Wellington Boot Throwing Competition

Sue White told the Chamber that the event was successful and well supported. A report will follow after the Committee have held their post-event meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Helen Thorne reported that the balance of the Chamber Current Account is healthy, however there is still a lot to sort out regarding the World Wellington Boot Throwing Championship. There are also still some outstanding subscriptions that have not yet been paid. Helen will ask Moore Scarrott to check the annual accounts.

6. Any Other Business

Christmas Lights Switch On

The Christmas Lights are being switched on on Saturday 26th November 2011 at 5.30pm. The Chamber are encouraging traders to stay open late and get involved in the festivities.

Wellington Business Fair

Sue White reported that Terry Sanford and Hattie Winter are looking to organise a business fair in the town, at the Wellington Rugby Club on 10th November 2011.

The general feeling is that it is a good idea, but it was felt it would be best to postpone this until the New Year as until more is known about the cost to the Chamber we cannot support it.

Alison Stock told the Chamber that a Somerset Chamber event went very well, however this was more of a networking session than a business fair.

Christmas Opening

Sam Parr spoke to the Chamber about arrangements opening on the two Sundays before Christmas, which would be the 11th and 18th December between 10am and 4pm, and also opening late on the two Wednesdays before Christmas, which would be the 14th and 21st until 8pm. A meeting to discuss this is being held on Thursday 13th October at 6pm in Nurtured by Nature, and all traders are invited.

Sam is also hoping to arrange a Christmas Craft Market on Sunday 11th December in the Scout Hall.

It was also suggested that all traders should have a small Christmas tree outside their business to help give the town a more festive feel.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.