



## **WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE**

**Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 6pm  
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Terry Sanford, Emma Blake, Sue White, Cathy Wiggan, Helen Thorne, John Pragnell, Ian Stock, Janet Reed, Frank Morris and Wilhelm Joustra.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Judith Goss, Alison Stock, Jackie Govier, Andy Govier, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Dave Mitton, Beryl Griffiths, Michael Coate, Andy Hunt, Des Hawkins and Phil Sharratt.

#### **2. Update – Phil Sharratt re Chelston Hospital website**

Due to personal circumstances Phil Sharratt was unable to attend the meeting, so he is expected to be giving an update to the Chamber at the next meeting in September.

#### **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Ian Stock pointed out that he had been missed off the minutes as being

present. This was noted, and the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 were signed off.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### Wellington Town Council report

Janet Reed informed the Chamber that there was not much to report as the Council Meeting was being held on the forthcoming Monday. Sue White asked why there was no Chamber report at the last Wellington Town Council meeting, and was told that there wasn't a reason and that it wasn't because there were no minutes available.

The Chamber expressed their disappointment at the £400 grant for the World Wellington Boot Throwing Championship, as they had been hoping for more than this. Janet replied that one of the main reasons is due to the fact that the large advertising banner was already paid for last year. Janet also said that none of the grant applications this year got the full amount that they asked for.

##### Wellington Food Town

The Wellington Economic Partnership Committee originally set up the Food Town and Vision of Wellington projects. John Pragnell informed the Chamber that at the last WEP meeting it was agreed that the Committee had run its course, and that as all the projects were being looked after by outside agencies there was no more that the WEP could do. The Committee voted to close Wellington Economic Partnership and transfer any remaining funds to the Wellington Food Town. The Food Town Committee is hoping to now be able to build up funds over time, with the possibility of expanding and maybe getting back the mobile kitchen with celebrity chef.

John Pragnell reported that there are 36 stalls confirmed for the Food Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and the Committee are now ready to begin the next stage of publicity with adverts and press releases from Bristol down to Plymouth.

##### Farmer's Market

Terry Sanford read the Farmer's Market report in Michael Coate's absence, saying that all the producers have all noticed that the town is increasingly quiet on Saturday morning. Trading is much the same, however the car park is never full. He also reported that the Farmer's Market is intending to stay open longer on the day of the Food Festival.

The Farmer's Market has also commented on the loss of the Greenway Road bus service, that it is a loss for the community particularly the older residents. They have questioned whether a smaller bus would be more appropriate.

##### 'Make It Local' maps

Sue White told Chamber members that the new 'Make It Local' folded paper maps are going down a storm with locals, and since they recently went out to

all the town businesses she has had to take extra copies to many of the shops as they had run out.

Terry Sanford reported that he didn't think any of the businesses had taken advantage of the opportunity to put extra information on the interactive map, but he would contact Andy Hunt regarding this. He also said that the Chamber was now in a position to get the 75% funding back from the 'Make It Local' organisation, and as Taunton Deane Economic Development department had paid approximately 25% of the cost it meant that the whole project had cost the Chamber in the region of about £9!!

It is intended that re-prints will be made, and the Chamber are hoping that local businesses will sponsor the cost of this which is expected to be minimal.

### Queen's Jubilee

Wellington Town Council held a public meeting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, although it was only attended by 11 members of the public – with 8 councillors. The Chamber agreed that a Friday night was probably not the best night to hold a public meeting.

The Town Council have decided that they will put up bunting during the celebrations, and are encouraging people to organise their own events which they will then help to publicise. The Chamber questioned why the Town Council themselves were not organising any kind of events and was told that there is just not the funding available, and with only two part time members of staff it was just not possible.

Sue White said that she had been speaking to Sam Cunningham of Samuel's Fresh Fish shop and he is looking at holding a Nettle Eating Competition over that weekend. He is also intending to become a member of the Chamber, and Sue suggested that the Chamber support him in this event. She also suggested that the Chamber try and cater for teenagers with something like a Battle of the Bands competition.

Terry Sanford suggested speaking with the Wellington Youth Centre to see if they could help with coming up with some sort of event.

## **5. Terry Sanford – Guest Speaker**

Terry gave Chamber members a very interesting presentation on his business Crosslink Academy and 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People'. He told us what the Academy is about, helping people and businesses bring their leadership skills to life and encouraging people to find their own personal visions in life.

In the business side of things they are able to offer Business Coaching, Leadership Courses, Personal Branding Coaching, Resilience Courses and Personal Coaching.

He then went on to explain to members about 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People' – the qualities that you need to use in life to be more

effective in getting what you want. For more information, and to find out about available courses, visit the website [www.crosslinkacademy.com](http://www.crosslinkacademy.com)

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Helen Thorne reported that the current balance of the Chamber account was £531.79. Sue White suggested that it would be sensible to draw down on the Wellington Boot Throwing grant money from Wellington Town Council so that the money would be available to pay for the running of the event.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Sue White pointed out that helpers would be needed for the running of the Wellington Boot Throwing Event, but also at the Food Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> September where the Chamber is having a stall to promote the event.

Sue also referred members to an email that she had received from The Business Property Network. The first point was about Somerset County Council has raised £9.6 million by selling off farms, property and land. The money is then being used to fund building works and key projects such as the initiative to make superfast broadband available to all Somerset households.

The second was regarding the idea of artists taking over empty shops and offices to host exhibitions. The empty premises are brightened up, the artists get to showcase their work in a prime location and by letting to a charity landlords can get an 80% discount on their business rates. It was discussed as to whether this 80% discount was something that was very well known about, as this could be a huge incentive for landlords and also a positive step for the town to brighten up the increasing number of empty shops.

**The meeting closed at 8.10pm.**