



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

Bi-monthly meeting

Wednesday 25th May 2012 at 6pm

The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

Minutes

Present:

Terry Sanford, Cathy Wiggan, John Pragnell, Helen Thorne, Vivienne Stock-Williams (Mayor), Ian Stock, Jackie Govier, Jane Burden

Terry Sanford (TS) opened the meeting by welcoming Vivienne as Mayor, congratulated her on her appointment and congratulated Gloria Copley on her appointment as Deputy Mayor. Terry asked Vivienne what her focus for the year would be and she confirmed this to be "Pride in Wellington".

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Janet Reed, Judith Goss, Dave Mitton, Sue White, Des Hawkins and Alison Stock

2. Chamber Secretary

Terry welcomed Jane Burden to the meeting reporting that Jane was the former Administrator for Taunton Chamber of Commerce, now supporting them in a semi voluntary capacity with aspects of their administration. Terry was able to confirm that Sue White had approached Taunton Chamber for assistance and that Jane had kindly indicated she would be prepared to take on board some of the administration for Wellington Chamber. The meeting thanked Jane for attending and stepping into the administration role. Jane then continued with the minute taking for the meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 28th March 2012, having been circulated in advance of the meeting, were agreed as a true record, with no amendments made.

Ian Stock raised a minor query in respect of the Chamber Constitution in that the Vice Chairman's name had been omitted but that when appearing in the

paper, Terry's name had been included. Chamber Constitution amendment to be on next month's agenda.

The minutes were then signed as a true record by Vice Chairman, Terry Sanford.

Matters Arising

May Day in the Park

This was a very wet day, with unfortunately no Chamber representation other than Sue White and Des Hawkins who were in attendance on the day, with help from Donna Munson (Rule 7, Wellington Food Town). It was generally felt this was a good, well attended event.

Wellington Food Town Report

John Pragnell (JP) updated the meeting reporting that 25 confirmed bookings had already been received for the event to date. JP confirmed that they are very pleased with the response to date, explaining that the event was open to local businesses/producers within a 15/20 mile radius of Wellington and that Wellington Farmers Market was currently considering booking space. JP was able to confirm that "free" parking had been confirmed for the event and that the event creates a good, relaxed atmosphere in the town with over 15,000 people visiting on the day in 2011.

Wellington Town Council

The Council minutes had been sent out to all Chamber members. Therefore, TS asked members if they had any questions for the Councillors following the reading of the minutes.

The following points were raised:

Chamber of Trade representatives

Jacky Govier confirmed the following had been re-elected to the Chamber of Trade Committee –

Viviene Stock-Williams as Mayor

Gloria Copley as Deputy Mayor

Cllrs Jacky Govier, Janet Reed and Dave Mitton

TS thanked both Andy and Jacky Govier for the support of the Chamber of Commerce and Trade during their period in office

Community Centre

It was reported that the new Management Committee of the Community Centre was holding their first meeting tonight to discuss and assess all aspects of the future of the Community Centre, including fabric of building, usage and access. It was confirmed that, as per the Deeds, if the building/land were to be sold, monies from the sale would have to be re-invested into Wellington for community use.

Jubilee Beacon

It was confirmed that the Jubilee Beacon was not happening for the Wellington Without Parish due to costs and health and safety issues that had been raised.

Rockwell Green Bus Shelter

It was reported that concerns about anti social behaviour in the vicinity of the bus stop had been raised by the PCSO resulting in consideration being given to the removal of the bus shelter. This had received a mixed reaction and the Council had agreed not to take premature action due to uncertainty about future bus routes in the area. It was also confirmed that in respect of any

proposals to remove the bus shelter, that residents in the area would have to be consulted as well.

Street Pastors

It was reported that this was a very successful initiative.

Wellington Farmers Market Report

There was no Farmers Market report.

General discussion followed about the success or otherwise of the market, with the general consensus that the first week was not so well attended but that the third weekend was better attended. There was general agreement that there is great demand for the pies.

Town Guide App

TS advised the meeting that unfortunately he had not progressed this yet. Town Council had discussed this informally and it was considered that the traders would need to make a nominal contribution. It was also suggested that perhaps the launch of the App could be linked with a Chamber recruitment drive, as there are lots of new businesses being established in the town.

ACTION: TS to progress this project.

4. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Civic Service at 10.00am on Sunday 3rd June – Sue had circulated details. TS reminded all present about the timetable for the Chamber Stand at the Street Fayre, asking for volunteers – 7 slots of 1.5 hours each
Schools and Care Homes all having little parties – no-one present was aware of any street parties taking place
Friends of the Park have arranged a “Lunch in the Park” event for 3rd June
St John's Church hosting a “Derby Day Tea Party” on 2nd June
Farmers' Market – 2nd June
Hospital Fete – 2nd June

5. Wellington Street Fayre

Meeting was reminded that volunteers are needed to man the stall and rota was circulated.

6. Financial Update

Although not on the agenda, TS included this in the meeting, inviting Helen Thorne (HT) to give an update. HT confirmed that the Chamber is in credit, although not all Members have paid their subscriptions.

7. Any Other Business

Changes to Businesses in the Town

TS mentioned a new coffee shop, “Coffee One” shortly to be opening in the town (branch also opening in Taunton). It was confirmed that planning consent had been applied for, the application had been discussed at Town Council and that local traders were making representations. Concerns were raised about shops that are closing, indicating that Wellington does not really need any additional hairdressers or coffee shops, acknowledging that the opening of the Luci Foreman hair salon will bring good quality to the town.

Trading Patterns

TS invited comments from those present in respect of recent trading patterns. Cathy Wiggan (CW) confirmed that trade is currently up and down, not a constant and that South Street has suffered as a result of the works to the medical centre. It was generally felt that there is an air of uncertainty at the

moment, although lots of new businesses are coming to Wellington with both Rylands and Westpark Business Parks filling up with tenants.

Planning Application – Haunch Lane

HT queried the situation in respect of this application. It was confirmed that outline consent had been approved, with no Section 106 Agreement included, and that detailed plans were now to be agreed with the Planning Officer. It was a stipulation of the approval that Cornhill was to be developed first, with retail outlets at ground level with flats above. Currently the Lane had been opened up at either end, but that a section in the middle was still deemed to be unsafe.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.