

WELLINGTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 22nd May, 2013 at 6pm at The Dolphin, Waterloo Road, Wellington

Present:

Ian Stock (Chairman (3 Spheres UK), Martin Reader and Tim Williams (Wellington School), Andy Hunt (Quantum Enterprises), Alison Stock (Porter Dodson), John Pragnell, Sally Hooper (Mad Dog), Sue White (Wellington Weekly News), Clare De Ruyter (Cheese & Wine Shop), Cllr Dave Mitton (Wellington Town Council), Richard Smith (BH & S Insurance), Hugh Mitchell (High Path Vat Consultants), Vivienne Stock-Williams (3 Spheres UK), Geoff Beaumont (Integrions), Judith Goss (Judith Goss Florists), Cllr Jackie Govier (Wellington Town Council), Tracey Hall (Hard Times Café), Phil and Alice Cribbon (Wellington Carnival Club), Keith Wheatley (Around Wellington), Mike Crew (Treasurer), David Wicks (Apsleys) and Jane Burden (Minutes Sec)

Ian Stock (IS) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, in particular the guest speakers for the evening, Mr Martin Reader, Headmaster, and Mr Tim Williams, Bursar, of Wellington School.

Speaker presentation:

Martin Reader gave a very informative and interesting insight into Wellington School as a business, educational establishment and a charity – a copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes, and available for members.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Janet Reed, Mr Frank Morris, Cathy Wiggan (Sandwich Stop) and Tracey (Frock Shop).

2. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2013

Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated prior to this meeting.

After confirming one amendment on page 2, "Mayor & Mayoress" to read "Mayoress and Consort", the Minutes were then agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising:

Wellington Town Guide App

IS confirmed that the Purchase Order for the App had now been processed, so the work on the App could now proceed. Also confirmed that there was a spreadsheet for completion in order to accurately capture the information to be included on the App.

Wellington Town Map

IS advised that following the last meeting at which this item had been raised, he had had a few preliminary talks with the producer and printer of the "pen and ink" map and would continue discussions about further production of the map.

KW highlighted that an electronic map would be included on the App and that maybe this was a duplication.

Members present felt the "pen and ink" map was an ideal promotional tool for the businesses, particularly as a "counter top" map, readily available for visitors and as it had proved so popular in the past, felt it was definitely an idea to be pursued again. WBA could also seek sponsorship for the map, perhaps from one of the local estate agents. AH would continue to publish the map on the website.

Summer Students to Wellington School

South Street traders queried of the Headmaster of Wellington School the School's connection with the Summer School Programme, in particular as they had experienced problems with increased episodes of shoplifting during the summer. The Headmaster confirmed that whilst

the School is not directly involved, this is a bad reflection on the School and that he would take the matter up with the organisers of the Summer School, but that should this occur during the forthcoming Summer months, the traders concerned are to visit the School immediately and report the incidents, which can then be dealt with at the time.

Welly Boot Competition

SW thanked the WBA for the monies received.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Mike Crew (MC) confirmed to the meeting that the WBA presently has over £1k in the current account.

MC advised that there are new members joining and fees are being collected and that he was not expecting any major outgoings in the immediate future.

MC discussed with the meeting the merits of the Business Apprenticeship Scheme, with the apprentices being able to assist with specific projects whilst learning new skills at the same time, indicating that he currently had two Apprentices working within his business who would be available to talk to should any business colleagues be interested in the Scheme.

5. Membership

MC confirmed that no new Members had joined since last month, but that various business lists were being collated, so that some work could be done in respect of contacting prospective new members.

Membership Update

AH advised he is still waiting for a list of current Members to upload onto the website. MC to provide as soon as possible.

6. Business Issues for Support

Planning Applications

In respect of current planning applications that the WBA had been consulted on, IS confirmed the following:

- Supported a Change of Use (CoU) application at 28 High Street, Wellington on the grounds that the new business would add variety to the mix of businesses within the town centre, that this may attract new people into the town, and that local people would run the business. Dave Mitton, noted that Wellington Town Council had supported the application as part use as an Insurance Broker was viewed as a similar business to a previous use as a travel agent..
- Opposed CoU of former Stead and Simpson to Café/Restaurant, with a petition being circulated in local shops which has already attracted over 1,400 signatures. This application is due before Wellington Town Council for decision on 20th May. JP has also raised an official objection on behalf of WBA on this issue.
- Concerned about the proposed COU of 32 High Street to an Indian Restaurant and take-away. Planning paperwork suggests an Indian restaurant but Licensing paperwork currently on display refers to live/recorded music. JP to investigate

Wellington Town Centre

Several Members present raised concerns as they were very concerned that Wellington is losing value as a place to visit and shop as they felt the community spirit of the town is dying. General discussion followed as to what steps could be taken to start to address the problems and two key areas were mentioned: more linkage with the local Schools, for example with arts projects for the town, and secondly business rent and rates.

IS reminded the meeting that when the "Mary Portas" bid was being put together there was a suggestion that a "Town Team" be brought together to take the initiatives forward. IS suggested that maybe now was the time to re-visit this idea and put together a "Town Team". The Town Team should be representative of the various groups and organisations in the town, in particular town centre businesses that are most engaged with the issues.

Some concerns were raised as to the WBA's role in this initiative, as it was already becoming a very successful pressure group in its own right. IS agreed that the WBA should act in a supporting role.

After discussion, IS proposed that the formation of a "Town Team" be considered, to look at some of the issues, the aim of which would be to work to bring some vibrancy back into Wellington, this was seconded by SW and **AGREED** by those present. Tracey Hall confirmed that she would very much like to be involved in the Town Team.

7. Reports

WBA – Tone Dale House Meeting

IS reported on the June Networking meeting which had taken place at Tone Dale House, which despite not been very well attended, had received a very interesting talk from Mr Ben Fox on Social Enterprise.

Street Fair – 2nd June 2013

Representatives from Wellington Carnival Club, Alice and Phil Cribbon, gave an update to the meeting regarding the arrangements for the forthcoming Street Fair on 2nd June.

They confirmed that there would be 60+ stalls in High Street and South Street with all existing shops able to remain open – double row, back to back in High Street and single row in South Street. On the Baptist Church Green from 10.30am onwards there would also be live music and bands. It was confirmed that there would be no outside commercial catering units present on the day. Leaflets had been distributed to businesses in High Street and South Street, the Wellington Weekly was also promoting the event and leaflets were about to go into school book bags.

Everyone was very complimentary about the details and promotion of the event.

Martin Reader then raised with Alice and Phil the idea of a joint event in 2015 (15th June) which is the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Suggesting a re-enactment (without horses) of the Battle of Waterloo on the Wellington School fields, suggesting both the re-enactment and the street fair could become a joint event. Alice and Phil to raise at their next Carnival Club Committee meeting.

Wellington Food Town – 7th September 2013

JP reported that plans for the event are progressing very well, with a lot of interested being received. Currently in discussion with the Borough Council regarding a South Street road closure to enable an increased size of event, with the intention that South Street businesses have first offer of stalls with traders being offered remaining pitches.

Farmers Market

DM updated the meeting on the current situation regarding the Farmers Market, confirming that they are currently hosting their events in the Scouts Hall but that discussions were taking place with TDBC and Somerset CC to operate the Market in the High Street outside the Old Post Office. However, it looks as though the proposal was likely to go ahead, with no additional licensing costs, and that during the Summer months, on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, expect to see the Market out in the town.

Wellington Experience

SW confirmed that the Welly Boot Competition is being held on 14th September 2013, and that the "Wellington Experience" now has a Facebook page and is looking to initially establish a single "front page" website.

Wellington Town Council

Cllr Mitton reported on the Annual General and Parish Meeting which had taken place in May, confirming that the new Mayor of Wellington was Cllr Gloria Copley and that the WBA representatives would continue to be Cllrs Jackie Govier, Janet Reed and Dave Mitton.

Cllr Mitton was also able to confirm the following in respect of the above meeting:

- Discussions had taken place on various planning applications
- There was a vacancy on the Town Council due to non-attendance of a Councillor

- Issues on parking had been supported re free parking after 3.30pm in all Pay and Display car parks in Wellington – this was currently being trialled in Cornwall for three months.

8. Correspondence and Notices

BJ Dixon Walsh has organised an information event in June – details circulated by e-mail.

9. Any Other Business

None

Future meeting dates

Networking meeting: 19th June @ David Pipe's Stables, Pond House,
Nicholashayne TA21 9QY

Next agenda meeting: Weds 24th July @ The Dolphin Inn – Guest Speaker:
Elizabeth York, Porter Dodson

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.