



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 27th October 2010 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

Minutes

Present: John Pragnell, Sue White, Terry Sanford, Dennis King, Cathy Wiggan, Andy Hunt, Alison Stock, Steve Mahoney, Julia Thorne, Sarah Stuart, Michael Coate, Dave Mitton, Helen Thorne, Des Hawkins, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Ian Stock, Beryl Griffiths, Jill Parr, Sam Parr, Jackie Govier

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Janet Reed, Louise Tredwin and Andrew Govier.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

Terry Sanford opened the meeting by reporting on the minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 28th October 2009. He said that things that were set out had been achieved last year.

Sue White questioned last year's discussion of creating a Chief Executive's post. Terry Sanford replied that it had been decided it was not really a position that was needed, so the idea had been dropped.

3. President's Report

Dennis King reported that due to family commitments over the past year he has nothing to report.

4. Chairman's Report

Terry Sanford reported to the Chamber that he feels that the last year has certainly built on what was set out in the previous year – which predominantly was promoting the Wellington Experience and in particular what people can experience by coming to the town.

The Christmas social last year was a first for the Chamber, which was a success. It has helped to raise the profile of the Chamber and in addition has benefited from a few more members due to it.

The Christmas Lights Switch On in 2009 was the first to be held on a Saturday, and was successful although would have been more so if it hadn't been due to the unfortunate weather. The Christmas window competition was really popular with people in the town and is set to happen this year as well.

During the last year Andy Hunt has set up a long overdue new website. This is to be updated regularly.

The Young Chamber group, which was to be set up with pupils from Court Fields Community School had to be abandoned due to withdrawal of funds.

The Wellington Boot Throwing Competition was a big success, and it is hoped that it will continue to be a success in the years to come. Sue White was praised for all her efforts towards the event.

It is felt that the Festival Fortnight was also a massive success, bringing lots of people into the town and raising the profile of the town.

In summary, it has once again been a difficult year, but probably in different areas. The general feeling within the town seems to be that Wellington has still got a warm heart and this has not been lost. It is the Chamber, and Chamber member's job to work hard to ensure that it does not disappear in the future.

5. Secretary's Report

David Derrick has now stepped down as Secretary for the Chamber, and Emma Blake has taken over the post. As this was the first meeting for the new Secretary there was nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

Helen Thorne reported to the Chamber that the available funds, as of 31 August 2010 is £1,362.68. This should begin to go up in the next couple of months as the 2010/2011 subscriptions begin to come in. The balance is approximately £367 better than it was at

the same time last year.

The receipts have mainly come from subscriptions. The Chamber have lost 9 members in the last year, but have gained another 8 members. Unfortunately some member's Standing Orders have not been changed in the last few years to accommodate the updated subscription fees.

A lot of this year's expenses relate to the 2009 Wellington Boot Throwing Competition – as this year's event is not relevant in this set of accounts. Figures for the 2010 event are not finalised as yet.

A donation of £235 was made to WHERE, and a further £100 donation was made to the Army Cadets for all there help with the event. The Chamber made a loss of £288.69, but this is felt to be the Chamber's contribution to the event.

To summarize, the Chamber funds are in a fairly healthy position – however more members would certainly be beneficial.

Terry Sanford added that he would like to thank Helen Thorne for all her hard work behind the scenes with the accounts and finances within the Chamber.

7. Election of Officers for 2010 – 2011

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the post of President.

Nomination: Terry Sanford
Proposed: Dennis King
Seconded: Sue White
In Favour: All

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the post of Chairman.

Nomination: Sue White
Proposed: Des Hawkins
Seconded: Cathy Wiggan
In Favour: All

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the post of Treasurer.

Nomination: Helen Thorne
Proposed: Dennis King
Seconded: Dennis Hawkins
In Favour: All

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the post of Vice President.

Nomination: Des Hawkins
Proposed: Helen Thorne
Seconded: Dennis King
In Favour: All

The post of Secretary is not up for nomination, as the Secretary is an employee of the Chamber.

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the post of Social Secretary.

Nomination: Sue White and Cathy Wiggan
Proposed: Des Hawkins
Seconded: Terry Sanford
In Favour: All

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the post of Economic and Planning Representative.

Nomination: John Pragnell
Proposed: Sue White
Seconded: Terry Sanford
In Favour: All

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the posts of Somerset Chamber of Trade and Commerce Representatives.

Nomination: Sue White and Terry Sanford
Proposed: Des Hawkins
Seconded: John Pragnell
In Favour: All

The Chamber were asked for nominations for the posts of Wellington Economic Partnership Representatives.

Nomination: Dennis King, Terry Sanford, John Pragnell, Fred Domellof and Helen Thorne

Proposed: John Pragnell
Seconded: Des Hawkins
In Favour: All

8. Review of Chamber Activities 2009 – 2010

It was felt that this had already been covered in the Chairman's Report.

9. Chamber Plans for 2010 – 2011

The main plans for the Chamber in the coming year is to continue with the activities which have been a success over the past year.

This includes the competitions over the Christmas period – the 'Shop Window' competition and the 'Odd Item In The Window' competition. Letters will be sent to traders asking them to participate. The Chamber queried a charge on the 'Odd Item' competition. However Terry Sanford thought that this may stop people from entering. Julia Thorne asked how much the photocopying for this would cost. Sue

White said that the costs would be minimal so it was agreed that there would be no entry charge for the competition.

The 'thank you' party for those who helped with the Wellington Boot Throwing Event was confirmed to be held at the United Reformed Church in Wellington on Wednesday 1st December between 6pm and 9pm. Terry Sanford and Sue White will get the invitations sent out as soon as possible.

The dates for the 2011 Wellington Boot Throwing Event is going to stay the same, and will probably be held in the same place. Sue White said that she felt the venue worked well, and was a better price than the previous year when it was held at the Football Ground – although the Chamber would be happy to consider other venues as well.

Emma Blake said that she thought the event would benefit from more advertising as a family day out – as it wasn't clear whether people realised the amount of stalls etc that was involved in the day.

Vivienne Stock-Williams commented on the fact that increased signage from the town centre may have helped in getting more people to the event. She also felt that it would be beneficial to have hot drinks available, and somewhere for people to sit while the raffle was being drawn.

Helen Thorne said that more volunteers for the next event were definitely needed.

Sue White informed the Chamber that surgery sessions were going to be planned for the Chamber meeting's starting from next year. This may include presentations from local businesses/traders, but it was felt it would be a good idea to contact Chamber members' to find out if there were particular surgery sessions that they feel would be beneficial to them.

10. Subscriptions for 2010 – 2011

The question was raised as to whether the Chamber's annual subscriptions should be increased to bring extra money into the Chamber's accounts. The unanimous response was that it would not be a good idea this year, and that the Chamber would be better off working on increasing the number of members.

Terry Sanford said that he wanted to see some more of the town's biggest companies join up to the Chamber ie Fox's and Swallowfield, although Relyon are already members and Waitrose has recently joined.

11. Any Other Business

Michael Coate brought up the subject of the time of the monthly meeting. He felt that there were many traders that were unable to come to the meetings as they are held too early, at 6pm. He suggested trying a couple of months meeting at 7pm or 7.30pm.

Judith Goss said that the meetings used to be later, but as some traders live away

from the town they had to go home and then come back later on.

Terry Sanford suggested that a survey via email might be a good idea to gauge other member's feelings about the timings of the meetings.

Sue White thought that it might be a good idea trialling a change of time in spring when the nights are lighter – so it is a subject that will be revisited in the new year.

John Pragnell raised the subject of a Social Evening to invite all the traders in the town in order to raise the profile of the Chamber.

Sue White suggested opening the Wellington Boot Party up to all the town's traders. Last year's event cost the Chamber £91.32 which included mulled wine and mince pies as a thank you to all the businesses for their help with the Wellington Boot Throwing Competition.

The Chamber agreed to open the evening up to all the town traders. An email will be sent to all Chamber members along with a letter to all those members without email and all traders in the town. The town council will also be invited, and Julia Thorne and Vivienne Stock-Williams will bring it up at the next Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.