



WELLINGTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23rd October 2013 at 6pm
The Dolphin Inn, Wellington

Minutes

Present:

Sue White (President); Helen Thorne; Ria Rickuard; Ian Stock (Chairman); Keith Wheatley (Vice President); Cllr Janet Reed; Andy Sully, David Croucher-Jones; Hugh Mitchell; Tony Bourne; David Wicks; Richard Smith; Cllr Jackie Govier; Judith Goss; Mike Carew (Treasurer); Cllr Dave Mitton, Geoff Beaumont; Rob Cadwallader; Cllr Vivienne Stock-Williams and Jane Burden (Minutes)

Ian Stock (IS) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, in particular the guest speakers for the evening, William Walsh and Jennifer Holland from Taunton Deane Borough Council, who then gave a presentation to the meeting in respect of Business Rates, to include information as to who sets the Rates, why they are so high, Rate relief and exemptions. A copy of the presentation is appended to these Minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sue Heys, Frank Morris, Peter Watts, John Pragnell, and Robert Ruffell-Hazell.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 24th October 2012, having previously been circulated to members and distributed to those present who had not received copies were considered, and after two minor amendments were raised by Sue White (as indicated below) and the minutes amended accordingly, the minutes were then signed as a true record.

Welly Boot to include Welly Experience

Info regarding Welly Boot Competition is still on WBA website and need to be removed

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising raised that were not covered under forthcoming agenda items.

4. President's Report

President, Sue White (SW), reported on her year in office, confirming that she took on the role of President in October 2013 feeling that she was in a good position to give support and advice to the newly formed WBA Committee, from her many year of experience of being involved with the Wellington Chamber of Commerce. SW indicated that half way through her year she felt surplus to requirements and took a step back from the WBA, which was doing well and developing in the right direction. Sue took this opportunity to advise the meeting that

she would not be standing for re-election this year but would continue to attend future meetings.

5. **Chairman's Report**

A copy of Ian Stock's (IS) report is appended to these minutes.

In addition to those thanked in his report, IS took the opportunity to thank John Pragnell who he had recently learned was stepping down from his role which he has done for 20 years and feels now is the right time. IS confirmed that both the Wellington Chamber and WBA are extremely grateful to John for all his work over the years he has been involved..

As a result of indicating she would not be seeking re-election, IS also took the opportunity to thank Sue White for all her hard work and support of both Wellington Chamber and WBA over the years she has been involved.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated to those present.

Key points to note from the reports:

Income for the year - £3,043.10

Outgoings - £3,591.48

Resulting in a small loss of £548.00 for year ended 31st August 2013

Closing balance as of today's date just under £1,200

Keith Wheatley (KW) made an observation in respect of the "Make it your Business Event" that had made small loss in respect of running costs, that whilst there was expenditure on marketing materials and equipment, these items have now become assets for the Association.

KW then offered a vote of thanks to Mike Carew for his work during this transitional year from Wellington Chamber of Commerce to Wellington Business Association.

KW then proposed that the accounts were accepted as a true record, Tony Bourne seconded and all **AGREED**.

Mike Carew offered his thanks to his apprentice, Sarah, whose role it had been to look after the accounts for the WBA during her apprenticeship and for work she had undertaken. Congratulations to Sarah who was now an employed member of Mike's team.

A copy of Mike Carew's report is appended to these minutes.

7. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2013/2014**

Keith Wheatley, Vice President took over the meeting at this stage, and thanked Ian for his hard work and commitment to the Association during his year in office. KW then looked after the process for the election of Chairman:

Chairman

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Nomination received for: | Ian Stock |
| Proposed by: | Clare de Ruyters |
| Seconded by: | Keith Wheatley |

AGREED

IS then resumed his role as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting, continuing with the process of election of the remainder of the Officers and Committee:

Treasurer

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Nomination received for: | Mike Carew |
| Proposed by: | Clare de Ruyters |
| Seconded by: | Richard Smith |

AGREED

Vice Chairman

Nomination received for: Keith Wheatley
Proposed by: Clare de Ruyters
Seconded by: Rob Cadwallader

AGREED

President

John Pragnell
Proposed by: Keith Wheatley
Seconded by:

Having received a recommendation that John Pragnell become President, IS indicated that from his discussions with John that due to his other commitments and time involved with the Chamber and WBA, he now wanted to take a break from the Association.

IS put forward a recommendation that Judith Goss become President, and whilst thanking IS and the Association for offering her the honour of becoming President, declined the role on this occasion.

KW then suggested that the Committee leave the role vacant at this stage but give the matter some thought, remembering that the role is about recognition of service rather than taking on duties. **All AGREED.**

Economic & Development Representative

Andrew Sully
Proposed by: Ian Stock
Seconded by: Sue White

AGREED

Somerset Chamber Representative:

Proposed by:
Seconded by:

In the absence of a representative for this role, it was proposed by KW that a summary of Somerset Chamber activity becomes a "digest", to be reported to the WBA on a regular basis and then dealt with accordingly, and updates posted on the website where necessary. **All AGREED.**

Secretary:

Jane Burden
Proposed by: Ian Stock
Seconded by: Judith Goss

AGREED by all

Andy Hunt has indicated he would continue to update the website on behalf of the Association, although he has now moved out of the area.

MC suggested that we look for a local Member to take on this piece of work. Geoff Beaumont from Integrious offered to take this on. IS thanked Geoff for his kind offer and confirmed he will arrange to meet with Geoff to discuss this in more detail.

MW proposed a vote of thanks from the Association to Andy for his work in maintaining the website.

8. Any Other Business

IS raised the following two items:

Town Guide App

Confirmed that database now complete, and is currently with the Company "Town Guide App" to finalise development of the App which is nearing completion of development in its current format

IS thanked TDBC and BJ Dixon Walsh for sponsorship of the App

Free After 3 Parking

IS confirmed that after Sally from Mad Dog had pushed for the Scheme, TDBC had agreed to a trial in Wellington for 6 weeks on Thurs. Fri and Sat for the last 3 weeks of August and first 3 weeks of September

During the trial retailers completed assessment form, the data from which is currently being collated

IS meeting with Wellington Town Council and TDBC next week to discuss findings and a report is to be prepared for presentation to Wellington Town Council on 4th November

IS was able to confirm that from some of the data seen so far, the Waitrose situation affected business positively and negatively during the period of the trial

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.