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Minutes of Executive Meeting held at The Town Council Chambers, 28 Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8AQ on Wednesday 27th January 2010

Present

T.Sanford (Crosslink Academy and Chamber Chairman)
S.White (Wellington Weekly News, Chamber Vice Chairman and Joint Chamber Social Secretary)
D.Derrick (Chamber Secretary)
H.Thorne (Wellington Newsagents and Chamber Treasurer)
C.Wiggan (Sandwich Stop and Joint Chamber Social Secretary)
A.Hunt (Quantum Enterprises)
D.Hawkins (Paul Fudge Funeral Directors)
M.Crew (MJC Financial Planning)
J.Goss (Judith Goss Florists)
H.Topuzoglu (Flavours Restaurant)
R.Webb (HT Perry and Sons)
S.Hooper (Mad Dog Clothing)
B.Griffiths (Haberdashery Plus)
F.Morris (Retired)
Cllr D.Mitton (Wellington Town Council)
Cllr J.Govier (Wellington Town Council)
Cllr J.Reed (Wellington Town Council)
Guests – E.Faull (Head Teacher, Court Fields Community School),
J.Lillywhite (Deputy Head Teacher/Curriculum Coordinator, Court Fields Community School),
S.McKen (Head of Applied Learning, Court Fields Community School)

Apologies for Absence

D.King (King's Cycles and Chamber President)

L.Tredwin (H.Tredwin Funeral Directors)

J.Pragnell (Wellington Economic Partnership)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no formal minutes to present to the meeting.

Presentation by Court Fields Community School

The three guests from Court Fields Community School gave an excellent presentation on progressive courses that were available in diploma form and how these new qualifications could give more value to the business community than traditional GCSEs. The offer to join the School on work placement, project leading, problem setting and solving and other aspects was offered to the members of the Chamber and anyone interested should contact Sue Mcken on semcken@educ.somerset.gov.uk. The proposal of a Junior Chamber and a Dragon's Den style forum were ideas for development. The on-going work to make the School into a facility with sixth form function was also outlined with a commitment from the Chamber to attend the drop-in session on Tuesday 23rd February being given; this would take place in the last hour of the event – from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

T.Sanford and **D.Derrick** to attend with others able to as well.

The relationship between the Chamber, the School and the local business community in general was strong and was to be developed as the current session progressed.

Vision Casting for 2010

An interactive session agreed on areas for Chamber involvement and activity in 2010 and they are as follows,

- Wellington Boot Throwing Event 2, Saturday 11th September
- Networking Event(s), first one in March
- Vintage Day – format to be decided upon
- Christmas – window competitions with roll out from September
- Young Chamber activities within Court Fields Community School

2009's activities were reviewed and the impact of Boot Throwing footfall was looked at, there were differing views, but the event was to be performed once more in 2010.

Working party of T.Sanford, D.Hawkins, D.King and S.White appointed to front event with A.Govier and J.Govier to be present on the day. D.Derrick would be providing administrative back-up with outside bodies to be asked to support.

M.Crew to take on a role at a later time.

Involve CFCS if possible.

Networking Event to be used as a forum to bring Chamber members together and to act as a base for Chamber members using other Chamber members services.

D.Derrick to contact H.Topuzoglu to arrange a Monday in March for such an event.

S.White and C.Wiggan to have input also.

Vintage Day to be of a format to be decided. Ideas of cars and motorbikes forthcoming at this time.

Christmas events to focus as 2009's had, namely shop window and missing/odd item based, roll out after Boot Throwing event had run.

February Meeting – Guests and Details

Cosmic Digital Mentors would attend as previously arranged with D.Derrick to revive this matter and arrange details.

Any Other Business

Membership drive bringing dividends and invoices issued for Chamber membership, membership records much more cohesive and manageable.

Business rates for 2010-2011 to be issued in early February – action required, exactly what depends on the rise selected.

Chamber finance is steady, remaining £450 ref 2009 Boot Throwing event now received, £100 requested by Town Council from Chamber for Christmas Lighting in town.

Membership fees been passed from D.Derrick to H.Thorne when applicable to do so.

The Chamber and the Town Council had good opportunity to work together in 2010 and a regular agenda point would be a report from WTC to WCTC.

Now that the three national supermarkets based in the town were open a close eye would be kept on their progress and development and the option to invite all three to a future meeting was to be kept open.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 24th February at The Town Council Chambers, 28 Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8AQ from 6.00pm with guest presentation first up.

T.Sanford
Chairman