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**Minutes of Executive Meeting held at Wellington Town Council Chambers,
Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset on Wednesday 26th May 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)
J.Pragnell (Wellington Economic Partnership)
F.Morris (Ex Porter and Fry)
B.Griffiths (Haberdashery Plus)
I.Stock (Three Spheres Marketing)
J.Goss (Judith Goss Florists)
M.Sales (IMC Creations)
S.Hooper (Mad Dog Clothing)
D.Tomlinson (South Street Book Shop)
C.de Ruyter (Cheese and Wine Shop)
Cllr A.Govier (Wellington Town Council)
Cllr J.Govier (Wellington Town Council)
Cllr J.Reed (Wellington Town Council)
Cllr D.Mitton (Wellington Town Council)
M.Shepherd and S.Lambert (Guests – Waitrose Ltd)

Apologies for Absence

J.Thorne (M2S Media)
S.Mahoney (Porter Dodson Solicitors)
D.Hawkins (Paul Fudge Funeral Directors)
L.Tredwin (H.Tredwin Funeral Directors)
Cllr V.Stock-Williams (Wellington Town Council)

Waitrose Supermarket – Presentation by Regional Manager

Regional Manager for Waitrose Limited Mark Shepherd delivered a comprehensive and wide ranging presentation to the meeting focussing on the Company's business philosophy and strategy in respect of the overall business and items specific to Wellington and the locality.

The presentation was delivered with a video portion and then a question and answer session.

Much was drawn out of the session and the following was decided upon,

- Waitrose Wellington to become a member of the Chamber.
- Management of Waitrose Wellington to become part of a working party in respect of developing a strategy and a way forward on traffic based matters in their locality and Wellington as a town.
- To look to offer Waitrose Wellington employees, as part of the Company's social development scheme, to Chamber members insofar as they can contribute to members businesses, paid for/subsidised by Waitrose Wellington.
- To be an active participant in Chamber matters going forward.

In summary the following – change was inevitable and Waitrose had to respond to the changes in their sector and we as a town need to also.

Details of a working party comprising traders who are located in South Street were given to the meeting and such a local body was suggested for other areas of the town, a colour based identification system was proposed and this could be the basis for dealing with some of the more localised issues affecting the town's businesses.

A car washing community project was outlined too with an orientation on youth and this was to go to Council for discussion.

Reasons for those incoming to the town were looked at and were found to not be simply parking related – ideas to be explored and developed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th April were read, approved and signed off as been a true and accurate record by T.Sanford.

Matters Arising

All matters arising would be dealt with during the course of the meeting.

Secretary's Report

D.Derrick reported that he had been asked to send out membership documentation to three businesses and this would be done.

T.Sanford and D.Derrick had met recently for a 1-2-1 to mark D.Derrick's first year with the Chamber and this had been a most useful exercise, the resumption of the Chamber Newsletter was to be looked at as a matter of some urgency, together with some other aspects of secretaryship.

Finance

H.Thorne reported that the value of the Chamber was **£1433.16**, some tidying up of membership fees was required in some cases and an invoice with respect to the Wellington Weekly News had been settled.

Wellington Town Council – Report from Councillors

It was reported that the AGM of the Council had taken place recently and Cllr A.Govier was now the Town Mayor with Cllr V.Stock-Williams now the Deputy Town Mayor – the Chamber expresses congratulations on these appointments and looks forward to working with the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor going forward.

It was asked for Cllr Stock-Williams to receive the Chamber's business papers going forward.

A grant of £750 had been made to the Chamber to support September's boot throwing event and this had been acknowledged.

A maintenance schedule for the walkway between the Cloud 9 shop and South Street's car park was to be established it was reported.

The Tour of Britain Cycle race was to pass through the town on Tuesday 14th September and a series of events was proposed

- Food Town – Saturday 4th September
- Amateur Cycle Event
- Wellington Boot Throwing Event – Saturday 11th September
- Cycle Event passes to Hemyock – Wednesday 15th September

Food Town and Farmers Market

J.Pragnell reported that Waitrose would be sponsoring this event and all was set for a good event in September.

There was no Farmers Market report.

Any Other Business

A Community Spirit Strategy was to be written and published and would incorporate all that is good about Wellington – good news stories were required to support this matter.

The Street Fayre would take place on Sunday 6th June and a general discussion looked at the direction of this event, the Chamber would be represented and assistance was asked for.

Further website development was to be undertaken by A.Hunt and D.Derrick and they would be meeting on Wednesday 2nd June to review and progress matters.

A meeting of the Wellington Boot Throwing Event steering committee would be held at Sandwich Stop from 5.00pm on Tuesday 8th June.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23rd June at Wellington Town Council Chambers, Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8AQ from 6.00pm.

T.Sanford – Chairman