



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

Wednesday 26th October 2011 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

Minutes

Present: Helen Thorne, Cathy Wiggan, Sue White, Emma Lee, Sam Parr, Beryl Griffiths, Andy Hunt, Terry Sanford, Michael Coate, Des Hawkins, Dave Mitton, John Pragnell, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Andrew Govier, Ian Stock, Jane Burden.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Frank Morris, Louise Tredwin, Jackie Govier, Judith Goss and Janet Reed.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2011 were agreed and signed off by Sue White.

3. Matters Arising

Wellington Town Council

Andrew Govier reported from the Wellington Town Council meeting held on 3rd October 2011. Two grants have been made, the first to the Citizen's

Advice Bureau to continue their outreach work within the town, and the second to Wellington Cricket Club to help promote the young people's training.

Concerns have been made by members of the public with regards to the unsatisfactory traffic lights at the junction of High Street and Longforth Road. The control of these lights has now been taken over by Somerset County Council and it is believed that they have now been synchronised better (although they are still not yet properly linked with the lights in the town centre). A crossing is also being considered for this junction as there are also concerns that pedestrians are unable to see what is coming round the corner when crossing.

The First Bus Group have agreed to undertake a proper risk assessment at Greenway Road in Rockwell Green to see if there is any possibility of reinstating this service in the future.

Free Christmas parking has now been agreed for the town on the four Saturday's leading up to Christmas, being 3rd, 10th, 17th and 23rd December.

The Town Council are looking at developing the Parish Plan in the near future. Dave Mitton spoke about the Vision of Wellington and how it can be developed into action. Wellington Town Council want to work with the Chamber regarding this, particularly the Neighbourhood Planning section and are looking for input regarding any additions or alterations. The Parish Plan will be going into The Edge directory so that everyone in the town has access to it.

There were also a couple of things which were not in the report, however Andrew Govier felt he wanted to bring up. Regarding the thoroughfare in Cornhill and whether it was going to be reopened, the developers that have put in a planning application for land behind Cornhill seem to have taken on board the comments from the Chamber and the Town Council and have added a couple more commercial units. This is now being dealt with by Taunton Deane Borough Council. He added that it has not yet actually been established as to whether it is safe to re-open Cornhill anyway.

The Christmas Lights Switch-On has been organised for Saturday 26th November between 4pm and 7pm. Entertainment will include rides, majorettes, carol singing, Santa's grotto, the Big Sing, Beech Grove Nativity Group and donkey rides.

Planning has been submitted for the Longforth Farm development, which would include the long awaited relief road. This application will coming to the next Wellington Town Council meeting for deliberation.

Farmer's Market

Michael Coate informed the Chamber that they have some extra suppliers on board for the markets, including venison, cakes, soups, fishmonger and another cheese supplier.

They are getting ready for their Christmas markets with Christmas cakes and puddings etc and are hoping to have carol singing by the Operatic Society again this year.

Food Town

John Pragnell reported that the Food Town has been an incredible success and has built up year on year, with 5,000 people visiting the event in 2006 and a massive 15,000 visitors this year! The local shopkeepers were all pleased as well as it brought so many people into the town centre.

The next Food Town event will be held on Saturday 8th September 2012 between 10am and 3pm. There will not be a Christmas event as it is too expensive to put on, and the weather is always even more of a risk.

World Wellington Boot Throwing Championship

No report has been made as yet, however Helen Thorne confirmed that the event had made a profit this year, and as a result £200 has been donated to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Wellington Business Fair

Terry Sanford informed the Chamber that he has been in talks with Hattie Winters, of Taunton Deane Borough Council, to try and organise a Business Fair in Wellington. They will be giving a presentation on this at the meeting in November.

Christmas Opening

Sam Parr told the Chamber about her efforts for trying to inject more of a festive feel into the town this Christmas and to help give the traders a bit of a boost. She said that approximately 95% of the town's traders have agreed to opening Sundays and late on Wednesday evenings. They have had a couple of successful meetings and have a lot of things organised for the Christmas period.

Carly Press have offered them 5,000 leaflets and a poster for each shop to promote the Christmas opening times. A Santa's grotto is being organised (and it is hoped that the empty shop next to Stag's in the High Street will be used for this) and there will also be street entertainment, including dancers, bands, a folk group, the Operatic Society and various primary schools.

Funding has been received from many local businesses in support, including Relyon, Aerosols, The Cleve Hotel, South Street Motors and all the town's supermarkets. Ken Coles has donated a trailer for two of the Sundays and Wellington Motors at Chelston are paying for banners to go outside of their premises at the Chelston Roundabout.

4. Any Other Business

Terry Sanford informed the Chamber that he is looking at a business prospect in Totnes, Devon and may be moving there permanently.

Emma Lee thanked the Chamber for the very kind wedding present received on behalf of the Chamber members last month.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.