

WELLINGTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Meeting

**Thursday 23rd January, 2014 at 6pm
at The Dolphin, Waterloo Road, Wellington**

Present:

Ian Stock, Chairman (3 Spheres UK); Andrew Sully (Avondale Valley Homes); Cllr Janet Reed (Wellington Town Council); Cllr Terry Milton; John Cottrell (Gundenham Dairy); Mike Russell (CCR Designs); Sue Heys (Sue Heys Stained Glass); Simon Trott (A&S Country Sports); Anna Robert (A&S Country Sports); Rob Ruffell-Hazell (R H Fibreboard); Hugh Mitchell (High Path Vat Consultancy); Mike Crew, Treasurer (MJC Coins); Ada Mournian; Martin Reader (Wellington School); Geoff Beaumont (Integrious); Jack Thompson (Town Guide Apps); Vivienne Stock-Williams (3spheres UK); Alison Stock (Porter Dodson); Keith Wheatley, Vice Chairman (Around Wellington); Paul Turner (Town Guide Apps); and Jane Burden (Minutes Secretary)

Ian Stock (IS) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, in particular the guest speaker for the evening, Jeremy Browne, MP.

In an interesting talk Jeremy Browne MP updated members on a range of topics affecting the global, national and local economies, as well as exploring in a lively Q&A session, a number of issues impacting Wellington and of personal interest to members.

A demonstration of the new Wellington Town Guide app was made by Jack Thompson of Town Guide Apps. The app has gained good media coverage since its launch last week and generated considerable interest from town centre businesses. Members were enthusiastic about the app and how it could be used to promote both individual businesses as well as Wellington as a whole. The WBA will look at how the app can be developed further and at its longer term financial viability. Appreciation was expressed for Taunton Deane Borough Council and BJ Dixon Walsh who have sponsored its development by Town Guide Apps, as well as for Terry Sanford, a former Chair of Wellington Chamber, who first initiated the idea.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sue White (Wellington Weekly News), Mrs Goss (Judith Goss Florists), Clare De Ruyter (Cheese & Wine), Brian Fullwell (AWP Services), Cllr Dave Mitton and Cllr Jackie Govier.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 24th July 2013 and 23rd October 2013 (AGM)

Minutes of these meetings had been circulated prior to this meeting. SW (in her absence) had indicated some amendments to the AGM Minutes, including two spelling corrections and that it was the information regarding the Wellington Experience she had requested be removed from the WBA website and not the Welly Boot. The Minutes were then agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Town Guide App – as above.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, **Mike Crew (MC)** confirmed to the meeting that there was a balance of £445.84p in the current account as of the meeting's date. MC confirmed that the invoice had been received and paid for the Town App. **IS** requested a copy of the invoice so that he can then liaise with TDBC in order to get sponsorship monies released.

5. Membership

No updates for this meeting so an update will come to the next meeting.

6. Business Issues

Country Show for Wellington

Simon Trott and Anna Robert, A&S Country Sports, updated the meeting on plans they are progressing for a Country Show for Wellington. It is anticipated that it will be a similar event to that of the Honiton Show with the aim being to encourage and support a huge array of local businesses. Sites locally are currently under consideration for the venue. Dates are yet to be confirmed but would avoid clashes with September events already firmly in the calendar. Exhibitors are also currently being contacted and charges to them would be incremental based on size of pitch. The aim of the event is to be "all about Wellington". Any help and support would be much appreciated.

WBA Meetings

It has been shown that evening meetings are not always a good time for Members to meet, so the WBA is looking to host more networking events during the day. **IS** confirmed networking meetings for:

- 31st January at 11.00am at the Skylark which Summerfield Developments are looking to host, the aim of which is to promote the good news of Wellington including a demonstration of the App. Refreshments available.
- 7th February at 7.30am at Blackdown Garden Centre. This is a joint event between the WBA and Mid Devon Federation of Small Businesses. Refreshments available including a cooked breakfast for £6.50

U3A in June

Mike Crew (MC) is seeking 6/10 Wellington businesses to have a stand for the day, free of charge, at a U3A event in June at the Rugby Club. The stands do not have to be manned so are more of an information point. If interested, MC is the contact to liaise with.

Wellington Volunteers

MC advised the meeting of a new charity that had formed in the town in December, called Wellington Volunteers (or Weevils). It is a self-financing organisation whose sole objective is to promote "community spirit" within the town. Charity has already received some large donations but is currently looking for a free website. If anyone is interested, then contact can be made with the charity via Mike at 22 South Street, Wellington.

Possible Joint Event

Jane Burden (JB), on behalf of Taunton Chamber of Commerce, invited WBA to take part in a possible joint event to include Taunton Chamber, Wellington Business Association and the newly formed Wiveliscombe Business Group. Taunton would take the lead on organisation of such event, via Jane, and it would be seen as an opportunity to learn from each other. **Post**

Meeting Note: In the meantime, **JB** to arrange a "three Chairs" meeting to discuss this and other issues.

7. Any Other Business

None recorded at this meeting.

Date of future meetings:

19 March at 6.00pm – speaker Rebecca Pow, Conservative Party Prospective Parliamentary Candidate to discuss priority policies for businesses and to answer any questions regarding local and personal issues.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.10pm.