



President: Dennis King

Chairman

Terry Sanford
16 Lancock Street
Rockwell Green
Wellington
Somerset
TA21 9RS
Tel: 0781 389 4510

www.wellingtonchamber.co.uk

Secretary

David Derrick
2 Park Villas
Waterloo Road
Wellington
Somerset
TA21 8JG
Tel: 01823 660687
Mob: 0751 648 2923

E-Mail: david230275@googlemail.com

Minutes of Executive Meeting held at Wellington Town Council Chambers, 28 Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8AQ on Wednesday 22nd September 2010

Present

T.Sanford (who chaired the meeting), D.Derrick, H.Thorne, Cllr D.Mitton, Cllr J.Hunt, A.Hunt, J.Pragnell, B.Griffiths, G.Parr, M.Coate, S.White, Cllr J.Reed, C.Wiggan, Julia Thorne, F.Morris, Cllr V.Stock-Williams, I.Stock and D.Hawkins (who both joined the meeting after its start time)

Cllr J.Hunt was attending his first meeting and informed those present he was a Town Councillor and was involved in Graphic Design and IT as well.

Apologies

H.Topuzoglu, Cllr A.Govier, Cllr J.Govier, J.Goss, D.King, L.Tredwin, John Thorne and S.Mahoney

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Cllr D.Mitton remarked that the old Woolworth's store had not been available for use during the Festival Fortnight, but a suitable base at Paprika had been used instead. There had been an issue with a banner related to the Fortnight.

Finance

H.Thorne reported that the value of the Chamber was £1019.37; this figure was representative of some boot event fees having been paid and some new session subscription fees having been received.

D.Derrick to raise invoices for the 2010-2011 session and obtain outstanding fees for 2009-2010.

Wellington Boot Event – Review

H.Thorne reviewed the financial aspects of the event and noted that the figures presented would be subject to change and addition to.

Income

- Half of the grant of £750 from Wellington Town Council had been drawn down.
- There had been no input from Somerset County Council.
- There had been a £200 input from local businesses as stallholders.
- Raffle proceeds had increased year on year.
- Competition fees had decreased year on year, with reduced prices in 2010 compared to 2009.
- Commission payments for 2010 in respect of ice cream sales and a bouncy castle were new inputs.

Expenditure

- Ground hire fees for the event were down year on year.
- The event host had increased their cost by £10 from 2009, but £160 represented excellent value for a whole day's work and the work was of an excellent quality.
- A formal raffle licence was new for 2010, but can be invoked again.
- A reusable banner had been purchased in 2010, but this was reusable and such can be used by both the Chamber and the Town Council.
- St John Ambulance and their First Aid cover awaited an invoice.
- Donations to the Army Cadets and to T.Milton for their time were to be decided upon.

Overall – at the time of the meeting income of £1461.10 and expenditure of £1217.08 made for a profit on the event of £244.02; a loss had been made in 2009.

T.Sanford reviewed the event from an operational perspective and found much to be pleased with and offered many sincere thanks to S.White who had coordinated the whole event, to the steering committee, those who had provided prizes and sponsorship and others besides.

A further event would be staged in 2011.

Festival Fortnight – Review

Julia Thorne reported that the Festival Fortnight had gone well and noted that Chamber member Cloud 9 had been a prominent participant in this matter.

A fuller report would be available in October, but there was a generally good feeling about matters.

The Tour of Britain Cycle Race would not be revisiting the Town in 2011.

Planning for similar would be undertaken – the capacity of the Town Council was small and there was a limit to what two part time staff could achieve on their own allowing for all their other Council duties, so input from others was required; same was true of the Wellington Boot Event.

Food Town – Review

J.Pragnell reviewed an excellent Food Town event and estimated that between eight and ten thousand people had passed through during the day.

The positioning of the event in the High Street had been strategically beneficial to the event.

A pre-Christmas event was to be held to the same template on Saturday 11th December with Wellington School as a venue.

Thanks were expressed to the Food Town Organising Committee, D.Munson from Rule 7 and those who volunteered of their time on the day.

M.Coate asked what sort of legacy would be left by Food Town and other such events like the Festival Fortnight and the Wellington Boot Throwing Event – he was advised that such were not intended nor should be seen as being quick fixes as such; they are part of a long term strategy to raise awareness of the Town and not necessarily to boost trade on the day, if that does take place then that should be seen as being a bonus.

Cllr V.Stock-Williams commented that new faces visiting the Town equalled new opportunities for vendors.

Future such events – as was mentioned with respect to the Wellington Boot Event and the Festival Fortnight – were dependant on assistance from the wider community.

Farmer's Market

M.Coate asked for the contact number for the Farmer's Market as was shown on the Chamber website to be changed and he passed details to A.Hunt.

He noted that the Market had benefited from the Food Town with the increased footfall it had brought about, although there was no Market on the next Food Town event.

There were six Markets between the date of the meeting and Christmas.

A request for Carol Singers for December's markets was made as was an extension in trading hours from 9am – 2pm; something Christmas related such as donkey riding could be offered.

Wellington Town Council

Cllr D.Mitton reported that the post of Police Liaison Officer had returned and that August's crime figures were low.

ASDA had not asked for permission for a sign indicating their position in the town to be erected and action was to be taken in this respect.

There were funds available for improvements to Lancer Court.

The summer programme of events at Wellington Park had been successful with positive reports having been received.

A report on the Green Heart project was given as was a review of the subject of Precept Capping; this is related to Council Tax and any rise in such is subject to a referendum and there is a cost issue attached.

A meeting of the Emergency Planning Committee was held in August and reviewed plans for events such as flooding and snowfall.

S.White asked as to why the Town's hanging baskets had not been tended to in the run up to and during the Festival Fortnight; this detracted from the Town's look at an important time – with the Carnival taking place later in September any obstacles had to be cleared for floats to pass by and as such hanging baskets constituted a hazard.

The Cornhill development project was reviewed and was not depending on developer based issued – sadly the renovation will run into a third year.

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 27th October

D.Derrick to write agenda for meeting and H.Thorne to get Chamber accounts audited.

Future Events

- A 'wash up' meeting ref the Wellington Boot Event was called for.
- Networking Events to be revisited after an unsuccessful try back in March 2010. S.White proposed a surgery style scenario for a Chamber meeting and a report for the Club News section of the Wellington Weekly News.
- Offers and ideas were invited.

Any Other Business

Chamber Member The Cheese and Wine Shop had been featured on Heart FM and had received publicity as a result.

Carnival Committee Chair J.Chave had met with S.White to see if the Chamber could assist with the organisation of the event; the Town's Carnival was in need of reinvigoration, but it not felt that the Chamber should commit to any more at the moment than agreeing to find out more of what was required.

More Chamber input to June's Street Fayre was perhaps more beneficial that getting involved with the Carnival.

F.Morris raised the issue of safety with coach parking in Longforth Road and felt that road markings could be improved.

This was something to carry forward to October's Town Council meeting.

Investing in and making available to members of the Chamber a 'Sandwich Board' style advertisement tool was raised; such a project could be opened up to Young Enterprise participants and would be funded by businesses who took part.

T.Sanford concluded by giving a report on the work of the Street Pastors who had been in action for one year now; good reports had been received on the work they do and they would be in action on both the Friday and Saturday of the Carnival weekend.

Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Annual General Meeting and Executive Meeting

Both on Wednesday 27th October at The Town Council Chambers, 28 Fore Street, Wellington,
Somerset, TA21 8AQ from 6.00pm.

T.Sanford
Chairman