



WELLINGTON CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

**Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday 26th January 2011 at 6pm
The Town Council Rooms, 28 Fore Street, Wellington**

Minutes

Present: Andrew Hunt, Sam Parr, Des Hawkins, Frank Morris, Terry Sanford, Cathy Wiggan, Sue White, Helen Thorne, John Pragnell, Michael Coate, John Thorne, Viviene Stock-Williams, Ian Stock, Jackie Govier, Judith Goss, Emma Blake, Roly Weaver (Guest Speaker) and David Weaver (Guest Speaker).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Govier, David Mitton, Janet Reed and Julia Thorne.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Viviene Stock-Williams had been missed off the list of those present at the November 2010 meeting. Emma Blake apologised for this and amended the minutes. The minutes were then agreed and signed off by Sue White.

3. Guest Speaker – Roly Weaver from the Peace Initiative

Roly Weaver introduced himself to the Chamber as a property developer who has lived around Wellington for the last ten years. Through his work he has

come across an organisation called Peace One Day, which he feels passionate about and last year became a patron for them. He showed a short film to Chamber members explaining about Peace One Day and what it aims to achieve.

The basic principal of the organisation is initially to create a global 'day of peace' every year on 21st September. So far it has been incredibly successful, with every member state of the United Nations adopting this.

In war torn countries a single day of ceasefire has given the opportunity for desperately needed humanitarian aid to reach those who need and has helped save lives.

Peace One Day is looking to spread the word and get as many people as possible to actively participate in events on this day. They have developed educational resources, and last year packs were sent out to 94% of schools in the UK. This year they are hoping to get them out to 100% of schools in the USA.

Roly Weaver is hoping to get the town involved in this awareness day, and will be approaching many various clubs and organisations (along with local schools) to try and achieve this. He is looking at the town hosting a series of events and activities to promote this between Saturday 17th September and Wednesday 21st September 2011. He suggested various football matches could be held on the Sunday, to incorporate teams from all the different clubs and organisations. There is also the possibility of creating many other events. He approached the Chamber to find out the possibility of getting members involved and whether shopkeepers would be willing to promote the cause via window displays and leaflets etc.

He is also hoping to raise the profile by contacting the BBC radio and television stations for possible coverage of a local event which would be supporting a national cause.

Sue White asked about fundraising for this, as she pointed out that all events need funding of some kind.

Roly Weaver replied that he hoped the local Arts Centre, schools and groups would reap the benefits of any such events they got involved with.

Viviene Stock-Williams also pointed out that to co-ordinate such a big group of events over a few days would need a core group of people to organise it and over-see all the details.

Sue White then suggested that there could be a stall at the Wellington Boot Throwing Competition to further promote it to the people there. She also added that she felt Roly Weaver would need to concentrate on a press release, forming a committee and fundraising for advertising etc.

Roly Weaver thanked the Chamber for listening and asked members to seriously think about becoming involved.

4. Matters Arising

Food Town

John Pragnell informed the Chamber that he had nothing further to report at present, but the next Food Town Committee Meeting would be held on Monday 7th February 2011.

Farmer's Market

Michael Coate told the Chamber that the year had started badly due to the weather. Out of the 35 producers booked in for the Christmas market 10 of those were unable to make it due to the snow. He thanked the Operatic Society and The Iron Dukes for their performances and said that he is hoping to book them again for next year as they were such a success.

The Farmer's Markets are to carry on with two markets per month and are hoping to try and get more demonstrators in this year.

Michael Coate then questioned the Council member's as to when Cornhill is expected to re-open, and whether the Farmer's Market would be able to put stalls there during their market days.

Vivienne Stock-Williams replied that the actual throughfare is thought to be ready for reopening some time in March of this year, however it is owned by the County Council so the Farmer's Market would have to apply to them and they would be charged for this.

Vivienne Stock-Williams then asked whether the Farmer's Market have any special plans for Easter.

Michael Coate was unsure to this as he did not know where many of the local shops stood with regards to opening.

Helen Thorne reported that shops are not obliged to close for the Royal Wedding, however as it is a new Bank Holiday it depends what is in their employee contracts as to whether it is included in their holiday or whether they would have to be paid extra.

Sam Parr asked the Chamber whether there were any plans for any kind of Street Market or Fair that weekend.

Cathy Wiggan said that she did not know of any definite ideas as yet, although South Street traders were intending to open and she was under the impression that the vicar at the Baptist Church was hoping to do something in the grounds in front of the church.

Wellington Town Council Report

Jackie Govier reported that the subject of the disused public toilets in Rockwell Green had been brought up at the last Town Council meeting. They had been told that it would take approximately £15,000 to be able to reopen

them again and more public consultation was needed, after which it would be taken back to the Town Council for further consideration.

Michael Coate informed Jackie Govier that there were a number of traders in Rockwell Green (namely himself, and the proprietors of Brocks and the Fish and Chip shop) that would be willing to be keyholders so that the toilets could be locked at night to deter troublemakers.

Jackie Govier said she would feed this idea back to the Town Council.

The Town Council have arranged a special ceremony for Richard Fox, who is to become an honorary Freeman of the town, as he has done a huge amount of things for the community over the years. The ceremony is to take place on Sunday 30th January at St Johns Church, and all are welcome to attend.

South Street

Cathy Wiggan told the Chamber that the South Street traders have begun a campaign where each week a different business is promoting itself.

Sue White said that perhaps the information regarding this can be forwarded to Andrew Hunt to be put on the Chamber website.

Superfast Broadband

Vivienne Stock-Williams reported an awful response by local people for the Superfast Broadband. She said that she felt most businesses in the area must be happy with the speed of broadband they are receiving at the moment, and it is likely now that the area will not receive this faster service until approximately 2015.

Christmas Social Event

It was felt that the event was a success. Emma Blake reported three possible new members from the evening itself, and another three which were also interested.

6. Treasurer's Report

Helen Thorne reported that the current account has a total balance of £1,091.86, however she requested to move £200 of this into the savings account as it has been earmarked for donation to a cause which has yet to be decided. This money is the takings from the raffle held at last year's Wellington Boot Throwing Competition.

Vivienne Stock-Williams suggested that as there seemed to be quite a bit of support for the Peace One Day initiative, that perhaps the £200 could be put towards that.

Sue White said that it is something that the Chamber could think about, although they had been hoping for it to go towards some kind of children's event or charity.

7. Any Other Business

Wellington Boot Throwing Competition

Sue White asked whether the Chamber felt that the Wellington Boot Throwing Competition should be held again this year. Member's agreed that it should be as the intention was for it to be looked at to be an annual event – and that it should be held around the same time, maybe the same weekend as previously if possible. This would make it Saturday 10th September 2011.

Cathy Wiggan asked whether it would be a possibility to hold it a week later, as this would then coincide with the start of Peace One Day on Saturday 17th September 2011.

Terry Sanford agreed that this could be beneficial to all, in terms of advertising etc, as it also gives more scope for potential sponsorship for the event.

Jackie Govier suggested contacting Roly Weaver to let him know the details of the event so that other events in the town do not get organised over the top of this for Peace One Day. She also suggested that as the event would run from about 12 noon until 5 pm football matches could be organised in the park in the morning, and then there would be people around already at the beginning of the event. Emma Blake agreed she would email him with regards to this.

Sue White said that if this was agreed she would then book this with Court Fields school, as the Wellington Majorettes have been in contact with her asking about the date for it.

Des Hawkins said he was hoping he would be able to get Ian Heals from South West Falconry to come and do a display, although he would have to find out about what it may or may not cost for this.

Sue White said that for the event to be successful once again the Chamber would need volunteers to help in organisation of the event and also on the day. Cathy Wiggan, Helen Thorne, Sue White, Sam Parr, Des Hawkins, Terry Sanford, Ian Stock and Emma Blake all agreed to help with the event.

Future meetings

Sue White informed the Chamber that at the next meeting on Wednesday 23rd February 2011 there would be another guest speaker. Donna Statham will be coming to speak to members regarding the 1600 club challenge in aid of the NSPCC.

A guest speaker from HMRC is due to give a presentation at the 23rd March meeting. There are a number of topics they are willing to discuss, and a list will be circulated to Chamber members to gauge which topic is most popular.

Loyalty League

Sue White told the Chamber that the local Loyalty League is failing miserably. There are only seven businesses involved, which means that the Wellington Weekly is losing money. It costs £25 per year to join, which includes an advert in the paper every week.

Chamber member's agreed that unless there is something new which can be done with it or a way of refreshing it the scheme will have to fold in May.

'Make It Local' map

Terry Sanford informed the Chamber that there is a grant available to help fund the 'Make It Local' paper map for the town. However the Chamber will need to bankroll it at a cost of approximately £1500, but will receive 70% of the cost back.

Sue White asked whether it would be possible to obtain help from the bank to cover the gap between payment and receiving the money back.

Vivienne Stock-Williams asked whether it had been discussed with the Economic Development team at Taunton Deane Borough Council about a possible grant or them bankrolling it. She said David Evans, the Economic Development Manager would be able to give some excellent advice regarding it.

The meeting closed at 8pm.