



## MINUTES OF MEETING – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, 6.00pm

### Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall

#### 1. Apologies

Michael Johns, Jane Bowe, Kate Lovell, Louise Marshall, Jeanne London

#### 2. Introductions and welcome

Attending: Judith Ludovino (Chair), Mike Tucker (Vice Chair), Jon Orchard (Treasurer), Simon Lawder, Rod Major, Louis Agabani, Ian Ames-White, Phillip Welch (Mayor), Marc Osborne (guest)

#### 3. News and correspondence received

Judith explained that Chamber correspondence and news likely to be of interest to members is being coordinated and this news along with notifications of grants and council initiatives will be broadcast to members via email, prior to each meeting.

The new website has a calendar of events relevant to the business community that is updated regularly. It was suggested and agreed that there should also be links on this page to other sources of information about events planned for Wells.

Judith told members Kelly Knight of Mendip District Council has moved to a new role, the new economic development officer is James North. Judith will make sure he is invited to future meetings.

Phil Welch and Louis Agabani told members:

- 1) The large red and white bollards in the marketplace are being replaced with more suitable “heritage” models
- 2) Michelle Thomas is new coordinator of “T” levels at Strode College. It was agreed she should be invited to the Chamber to explain to members the benefits to business of this new qualification
- 3) Wells City Council has recruited a Sustainability Officer, starting September 2021
- 4) The new political structure for the county will mean more responsibilities and a larger budget for Wells City Council.
- 5) The new unitary authority will have two elected representatives from Wells.
- 6) In addition to the Somerset unitary authority “LCNs” i.e. local community networks, will be set up comprising parish councils, the NHS, police, schools etc.



#### 4. News from members

Ian Ames-White suggested the Chamber might like to visit the studio in Beryl Lane where the mosaic installation is being designed and prepared, he said good progress has been made with the mosaic approximately 30% complete. It was agreed that the September meeting of the Chamber would be at the studio and Ian would explain sponsorship opportunities for local businesses.

#### 5. Introducing new website:

Marc Osborne of Gromedia, based in Street introduced the new Chamber website:  
[www.wellschamberofcommerce.co.uk](http://www.wellschamberofcommerce.co.uk).

Rod Major and Simon Lawder asked that the new website be publicized to Enterprise Mendip via the new council officer James North, and to the Wells Covid network.

Members suggested a press release to Wells Voice and other media.

Rod Major suggested a shorter domain for the website could be considered. It was established that "Wells Chamber" is available as a domain, however Marc commented that any common term search mentioning Wells and Chamber of Commerce would find the site without difficulty.

**Record of thanks** to Marc Osborne of Gromedia, to Clare Mardall for free use of photographs, to Rachel Brown for new logo

#### 6. Member profiles

The new website has a section for "member profiles". Members attending agreed to send photos and words to Judith ASAP to get this section properly populated.

#### 7. Expanding membership

Wells Chamber of Commerce "business cards" will be purchased now the website is live. All members will be given a few cards to encourage new members. The Chamber will ask Robert Powell how Wells Loyalty League members may be approached.

Simon Lawder reiterated that the Chamber aims should be clear. Judith reminded the group that the aims of the Chamber are:

**Business** - sharing news and opportunities

**Participation**- giving a little of your time and expertise for the benefit of all

**Community**- meeting like minded people, expanding your social circle

**Representation/Voice** - making your ideas and views known to a wide and influential audience



**8. Preferences for future meetings**

Members liked the Council Chamber at the Town Hall as a venue, being a suitable size and convenient. It was agreed that future meetings (with the exception of 6<sup>th</sup> September when the meeting will be at the mosaic studio), will be booked at the Town Hall.

As it is not possible to have food and drink in the council chamber, members agreed that drinks after the meeting in one of Wells many

**9. Any other business**

None

Meeting closed 7.00pm

**Dates for next meetings:**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021