



## MINUTES OF MEETING – 6 September 2021, 6.00pm

### Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall

#### 1. Apologies

Simon Leyton, Jeanne London, James North, Marc Osborne,

#### 2. Introductions and welcome

Attending: Judith Ludovino (Chair), Mike Tucker (Vice Chair), Jon Orchard (Treasurer), Jackie Adams, Ian Ames-White Simon Lawder, Rod Major, Andy Vallis

#### 3. News and correspondence received

**DOUBT! Is here** - As expected the Antony Gormley sculpture, now in situ on the West Wing of the cathedral is controversial! It certainly seems to be succeeding in getting people talking about art and heritage and will bring new visitors to Wells.

**Call My Art Bluff, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September** - Call My Art Bluff will be taking place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at Cedars Hall 6.30pm. Neil Tully is working with a panel which includes Art Critique and writer Hettie Judah (daughter of Phoebe Judah) and Channel 4's Jonathan Rugman. Proceedings will support The Lawrence Centre and the Gormley Project community arts programme.

Tickets are £45 - and include a welcome drink, dinner, entertainment and an auction and raffle. You can get a table of 6 or 10 or come on your own. There were only 18 spaces left w/c 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Tickets via Emma at The Project Factory: [emma@projectfactory.uk](mailto:emma@projectfactory.uk)

**Free training opportunities for Hospitality, Health & Social Care, Retail** - Serco are providing free training and support with challenges such as training new recruits, furloughed staff, staff retention etc. Contact Kirsty Mottram on 07718 193665

**Fraud Protection "Little Book of Big Scams"** – booklet **attached**, it is an easy read and good to feel well informed.

**Somerset County Council Business News & Funding updates** - I **attach** this again as it seems timely and relevant

#### **DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING from Cosmic**

Over the years Cosmic have provided outstanding short courses for business in the South West. Their half and full day programmes are usually funded – check out their new calendar using this link: <https://cosmic.org.uk/events>. There is a link to subscribe to their newsletters.



#### **4. News from members**

Andy Vallis – The new Post Office at Natural Pets in Wells, Queen Street, is now open for business.

Ian Ames-White – The Wells Mosaic is making substantial progress, it is a walkable historical map of Wells and when finished, in about 18 months, will be 6m in diameter. Wells Chamber of Commerce have been invited to visit the studio for next meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed that this opportunity should be actively promoted to current membership and other businesses in Wells. Individuals attending would be asked to register so that numbers can be anticipated. Mike Tucker volunteered to organize refreshments and glasses, Jonathan Orchard and the meeting agreed that the Chamber should pay for these. It was suggested that the Chamber should consider sponsoring the mosaic.

Andy Vallis/Simon Lawder reminded the Chamber that the Museum of the Moon would be arriving October. It was agreed that the Chamber should aim to have a networking event at the Cathedral to coincide with this, JL to investigate prior to the next meeting.

Jonathan Orchard (Treasurer) the current account balance is £9517

#### **5. Member profiles for the website**

There are now a few “member profiles” on the website but we need more! Photos should be 600 x 600 pixels minimum. Members attending agreed to send photos and words to Judith ASAP to get this section properly populated.

#### **6. Re-Engaging and 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. It was agreed that Tom Wood at St Andrews Press should be approached.

The Chamber will ask Robert Powell how Wells Loyalty League members may be approached.

Simon Lawder mentioned that the Queen Street traders have a very active business group being coordinated by the owners of Protec, Simon to provide a contact and Judith to approach.

#### **7. Any other business**

**Minutes of Meetings.** It was agreed that to avoid the printing of minutes, in future the procedure would be:

- Minutes of previous meeting to be sent with invitations to monthly meetings, with the invitation to read these and submit any queries/amendments
- Minutes to be approved at “in person” meeting of the Chamber



- Once minutes approved by members, minutes to be posted on the website

### **Pedestrianization**

Rod Major proposed that the Chamber should support Sadler Street being closed to all but essential traffic 10-4 on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Members commented that when this has been suggested in previous years Chamber members voted against.

Rod countered that he believed that the general public would be substantially FOR pedestrianization and that there had recently been a serious accident involving an elderly pedestrian.

Judith asked whether there has been any research into local/shopper opinion carried out in recent years. Andy mentioned that although the issue had been covered in Wells Voice there was no real outcome. Chamber members said the last time this issue had been raised for discussion by the Chamber (perhaps 2018?) it had resulted in a large attendance with a strong lobby against the proposal.

It was agreed that the Chamber should enable a discussion, perhaps involving Tessa Munt and SW Highways and facts about public/shopper opinion should be sought. This could perhaps be a topic for a Chamber meeting in the New Year/Spring.

Meeting closed 7.00pm

**Dates for next meetings:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

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