



## **Annual General Meeting - 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Wells Town Hall, Council Chamber, 6.00pm**

Attending: Judith Ludovino (Chair), Matthew Gerrard, Sean Sloan, Mick McEvoy, Andy Vallis, Ian Ames-White

Apologies: Mike Tucker (Vice Chair), Jon Orchard (Treasurer), Rod Major, Jeanne London, Jo Butt, Simon Lawder, Paddy O'Hagan, Loaye Agabani

**1. Welcome**

Members introduced themselves

**2. Chairman's report and annual accounts**

After a covid-disrupted year in 2020, the Chamber started regular meetings again in 2021, initially via Zoom and latterly in person at the Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall. Thank you to Wells City Council for providing the venue. Thank you also to Old Mill for reinstating the offer of their conference room for meetings when a member of their staff can be present. Meetings at the Old Mill premises mean we can provide refreshments, cheese and wine for members, unfortunately this is not possible at the town hall.

Judith would like to thank Chamber members and particularly Jonathan Orchard, Rod Major and Mike Tucker for their support during the 2021/22 season.

The Chamber published a "Calendar of Events" in the Spring of 2021 to get the word around that Wells is back in business, with numerous events, mainly organized by volunteers.

The first priority for the 2021/22 committee was to re-establish the Chamber's web presence, with a new website launched in Summer 2021. The new website provides details of Chamber meetings, Chamber minutes and news items. It has already brought in new enquiries and new members. Thank you to web designer Marc Osborne for his professional services, and to Clare Mardall who donated photography. I will prepare some notes to the new Secretary on how to upload information onto the website.

Activities in 2021/22 included: A visit to Ruth Ames-White's studio where she is building the Wells Mosaic. A visit to the Festival of the Moon, organized by Wells Cathedral. A talk from the Strawberry Line about progress for this important project and sponsorship opportunities; a talk from Strode College re: "T" level qualifications



The Chamber continues to support other groups who have a positive impact on the city, and provided additional one-off funding for the Antony Gormley project and Wells Mosaic this year.

The Chamber has had offers of talks from various sources in the coming months, I will pass details to the new committee.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair for 2021/22. Judith Ludovino 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Annual Accounts:**

- Starting cash balance £10,239 (including grant money of £5,971)
- Closing cash balance £7,900 (including grant money of £5,971)
- Membership subs of £1,450. Effectively this means we have 29 active paying members.
- Payments out of £3,788 mostly website and sponsorship

Some thoughts,

- Still have quite a bit of grant money. We could use to fund potential speakers at our meetings – if beneficial to the business community.
- No sponsorship was made to Literature, Theatre or Comedy Festival this year, which is unusual. Maybe they didn't happen.
- Still healthy cash reserves which are clearly going to increase soon again with this years Subs.
- I think most members are on Standing Order but can you mention if not, would be great if they could setup wef 1<sup>st</sup> April

### **3. Election of officers**

**Chair – Sean Sloan**, proposed by JL, seconded by I A-W, carried

**Vice Chair – Mike Tucker**, proposed by JL, seconded by I A-W, carried

**Treasurer – Jon Orchard**, proposed by AV, seconded by JL, carried

**Membership coordinator – Rod Major**, proposed by AV, seconded by SS, carried

**Website coordinator – Andy Vallis** volunteered

**News coordinator – Sean Sloan** offered clerical support for this

**Secretary –** has been advertised, closing date 18<sup>th</sup> April. JL to post on Indeed.

### **4. Next meetings**

Future meetings will be held at Old Mill offices when available, SS and JO to liaise

### **5. Member news/AoB**



There are GRANTS of up to £50K available for businesses with growth plans, expressions of interest by 11 April to Somerset County Council. Sean Sloan also mentioned that he has grants available for up to 300 companies to have exhibition/selling space at craft fairs.

Siobhan Goodwin's kind offer of a heritage walk is still on the table.

Judith left with the parting thought that a hard copy and electronic copy of the membership application form should be a priority for the coming months. SS agreed to liaise with JO on this.

Meeting closed 6.45pm

Next meetings: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

4<sup>th</sup> July 2022