



MINUTES OF MEETING – 7th February 2022

Council Chamber, Wells Town Hall

1. **Apologies**

Jeanne London

2. **Introductions and welcome**

Attending: Judith Ludovino (Chair), Jon Orchard (Treasurer), Jo Butt, Matt Gerrard, Andy Vallis, Loaye Agabani, Simon Lawder, Tom Wood, Rod Major. Guests Lis Buxton and Susie from Strode College

3. **News and correspondence received**

It has been noted that Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council have been launching small grant programmes and members are urged to look out for these.

4. **Presentation from Strode College re: “T” level qualifications**

T levels are a new qualification to replace NVQs – with more emphasis on work experience: to be 45 days over 1 or 2 years. There is a £1000 incentive for employers to take part prior to July 2022. Employers to be supported through a due diligence process to make sure there is adequate safeguarding of students, and appropriate employers liability.

The headline subjects are: Accounting, Business Admin, Engineering, Science, Health, Childcare and Education, and Digital programmes with specialization in *Production and Web Apps, *Tech Support and *Managing Data (including web analytics and some marketing).

Strode College will work with employers to ensure liaison with tutors and appropriate targets.

5. **News from members**

Loaye Agabani, serving as Wells City Councillor and Chamber liaison advised that there would be local elections on May 6th to elect new councillors prior to Mendip District Council being dissolved in 2023. The next five years would be the groundwork for the next generation, with many Mendip Assets being returned to Wells and the budget for Wells being increased from around £500K to £3 million.

The Market Place bollards have now been replaced with planters also in place, making the market place much more attractive.



Rod Major reported that events to celebration the Queen’s platinum jubilee are now well underway with Sunday 5th June being the date for main events. The events will be on the Cathedral Green, marketplace, recreation ground and moat areas.

Andy Vallis supported with some specific detail: Abseiling down the Cathedral, possibly tightrope walking, workshops, bands and community picnic and additional events run by the rugby club (at the Recreation Ground). There will be a souvenir brochure.

Tom Wood said St Andrews Press are also celebrating their platinum jubilee.

Jo Butt introduced Matt Gerrard, new Brand and Events executive for Truespeed.

6. Member profiles

Members are urged to send business profiles for the new Chamber website.

7. Any other business

Judith distributed Chamber business cards.

Members reminded that AGM will be 4th April 2022. It is hoped that the chamber will take advantage of offers from Strawberry Line volunteers to look at progress with a guided walk, and Siobhan Godwin has offered to do a “ghost walk” in the coming months.

Meeting closed 7.00pm

Next meetings:

7th March 2022

4th April 2022 – AGM

9th May 2022

6th June 2022

4th July 2022