Meeting
Monday 09 February 2026
5.30pm, White Hart

Minutes

Present: Tom Wood, Jonathan Orchard, Lewis Dyer, Mike Tucker, Robert Powell, Jill Barker, Dean Mortlock, Anna Hay, Matt Ruddle, Anne-Marie Walby, Mike McGrath, Bev Smith

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1. Apologies
Howard Burnett.

2. Minutes from last meeting
The purpose of this meeting was a social gathering.

3. Treasurer's Report
N/A

4. Memberships and Events

The group enjoyed a social evening, pausing briefly for round-table introductions to welcome new faces and discuss potential ways forward.

Attendees introduced themselves:

- Mike – City Decorating Supplies; Chair of the Chamber
- Johnathan – Partner at The Old Mill; Financial Planner
- Lewis – The Old Mill; Financial Planner and new Treasurer of the Chamber

- Jill – Middlewick; also represents Glastonbury and Street Chamber
- Dean – Wells Voice; interested in promoting groups, events, and business engagement
- Anna – Solicitor at Harris & Harris; specialises in Corporate Commercial
- Howard – Retired Trading Standards Officer; now consultant
- Matt – Financial Planner with a commercial wealth management background
- Anne-Marie – Business Success Coach; also represents Street and Glastonbury Chamber
- Mike – Construction and development; President of Wells Sports and Golf Club
- Tom – St Andrews Press; Membership Secretary for Wells Chamber
- Robert – Basil Powell Shoes; President of the Chamber
- Bev – New Administrator for the Chamber

Mike Tucker welcomed Jill and Anne-Marie from Glastonbury and Street. A discussion followed regarding increasing membership and organising more events.

Jill explained that Glastonbury had joined with Street for administrative efficiency. However, there is a challenge in members not seeing clear value or impact from their membership. Previously, they had been involved in larger initiatives, such as the Glastonbury Town Deal.

Tom noted that the Wells Chamber previously offered grants to start-ups and young people, creating a positive cycle of engagement and continued support.

Sedgemoor was highlighted as a successful example, particularly for running awards. Frome was also mentioned as a strong example, supported by the Somerset Chamber of Commerce, which has paid staff.

It was agreed that the Chambers are stronger when working together. There is a need to support one another, share resources, and potentially meet on a quarterly basis.

It was noted that Somerset Chamber recently held an event in Wells without notifying Wells Chamber. It was agreed that Wells should engage with Somerset Chamber to enlist support for future events. Johnathan is already in conversation with them.

Tessa and Sarah (MPs) are aware of the need for business community support to ensure survival.

Further discussions will take place regarding ways to work together and offer mutual support.

8. Date of Next Meeting
Monday 9th March, 5:30pm at The Old Mill.