**Meeting**
Monday 12th January 2026
5.45pm, Old Mill Board Room

**Minutes**

**Present:** Tom Wood, Jonathan Orchard, Lewis Dyer, Mike Tucker, Robert Powell

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**1. Apologies**
None received.

**2. Minutes from last meeting**
It was a short meeting and there was nothing to follow up.

**3. Treasurer's Report**
It was resolved that Kirstie Harris and Jonathan Orchard be removed from their positions as Treasurers, and that Thomas Wood and Lewis Dyer be appointed as Treasurers.

Jonathan is working on a report and will forward this to the Chamber shortly, and will arrange access for Lewis as soon as possible.

**4. Memberships and Events**
Somerset Chamber of Commerce have a new member of staff on PAYE called Ian and they are keen to support. They have offered to work with us to organise and promote events and have a dedicated events co-ordinator.

There is also an opportunity to collaborate with Somerset Chamber, providing members with added incentive to join if they receive benefits from Somerset Chamber as well, need to be discussed with Somerset.

The Wells Chamber has a challenge to gain new members, and events are a way to encourage people to come on board.

Event ideas include:
– A talk from the Bishop and Dean, who are enthusiastic to help
– Socials in a pub with a few drinks
– Wells Museum an evening event (from April as they have a new section added)
– Cathedral tour
– Bishops Palace and gardens
– Golf Club
– Meetings at the Old Mill with talks such as the police, Tessa Munt, or members speaking about their business (e.g. Sam from Sheep & Penguin or Specsavers)

Tom noted that in order to make this work, a structure is needed with roles such as an events co-ordinator with paid hours, as there is not enough time to organise everything internally.

There was acknowledgement of this pressure and agreement to explore whether Chloe from Somerset Chamber could organise events for us as suggested. They also have a wider audience, whereas we currently have only a small number of paid members on our mailing list. Jonathan confirmed there is no fee to be affiliated with Somerset Chamber.

Robert noted from his experience running an enterprise event that community engagement is key, and that small local businesses are the ones we really need to work with.

Following discussion on promotion, it was agreed to keep things simple with 3–4 quality events over the year, such as:
– Wells Museum (from April)
– Cathedral Tour (September)
– Bishops Palace and Gardens (summer)
– Golf Club meeting
– Possibly Vicars' Close or a tour of Charlie Bigham's

Next Meeting to be held at the White Hart followed by Sheep & Penguin.  It was decided a better time to start would be 5.30/5.45pm.

***Action Point:*** *Tom and Bev to sketch out a calendar of events for the year and send it to the group for approval.*

This could then be sent to Somerset Chamber to organise. Events will need to be advertised with an initial mail-out and a reminder before each event. The Chamber should appear active by updating the website and posting on social media.

**7. AOB**

Beverley Smith is joining to support the Chamber with admin, website, and emails at an agreed hourly rate and terms. Hours maybe be more initially as we set up and get up to speed.

***Action Point:*** *Bev and Tom to arrange a date soon to work through access to emails and the website.*

**8. Date of next meeting**

Monday 9th February at the White Hart 5.30pm