WELSHPOOL PROJECTS LIMITED

BUSINESS FORUM

MINUTES

Of a meeting held on
Monday 16th September 2013 at 7pm
in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall

Present were:
Cllr S Kaye (Chair)
Cllr A Bowen
Cllr B McWhinnie (part)
Alan Crowe Aces Entertainment
Heather Parkes Lamplite Antiques
Melvyn Parkes Lamplite Antiques
Freda Davies Welshpool Projects
Jan Williams Jans Cards
Alan Williams Jans Cards
Christine Holmes Flaunt It
Lyn Ellis Dragon Woods Ltd
Tom Harris Nibbles
Heather Sherlock M&Co
Ros Jones Celtic Shop No 14
Simon Ebred Monkey Puzzle Tearoom
Robert Robinson (Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Evans, Kaye Derwas and Kathy Beech.

3.Minutes of the last meeting
The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as correct record.

4.Actions taken since the last meeting
The Secretary informed the meeting of actions taken since the last meeting which were:

4.1 Web site and shop links to be taken forward.
The web site is up and running and there is a link to the My Welshpool Shop and Business pages.

4.2 Plan for DPPO to be prepared for next meeting.
The DPPO is moving forward. As many reports as possible need to be recorded on 101. Evidence is being prepared and a survey will be completed in the autumn to support an application to PCC.

4.3 Emails required for antisocial behaviour incidents to the Town Clerk
Emails are coming in, the more the better.

4.4 Check with Highways traffic lights timings for pedestrians.
The subject of the traffic light timings has been raised with the Highways Dept at PCC.

4.5 Chase up cleaning of Boot Street drains.
A further request has been sent to PCC.

4.6 Seek more street cleaning.
A discussion has taken place but with budget constraints it is not likely to improve. A further discussion will take place with PCC on a way forward.

4.7 Prepare list of common times and places where incidents take place.
This has been done in conjunction with the Police.

4.8 Hall Street needs to be kept clean by Town Hall Market entrance.
This item is being addressed.

4.9 Pigeon problems to be addressed at Hopkins Passage.
The properties where the pigeons are located are not registered so there is no record of who owns which property.
There has been loose masonary moved by PCC. They are trying to make contact with owners to try and reduce the problem. The Town Council will follow this up.

4.10 Market Charter celebration
The Town Council does not feel a special celebration is needed to celebrate the charter's age.

4.11 Parking enforcement
A discussion has been held with both the Police and PCC on this subject.

4.12 Graffiti
The graffiti was painted out by the County Times. Graffiti is being monitored and cleaned where we can.

4.13 Cuts in on the ground services
A discussion is to take place at the Local Council Forum to try and improve the situation.

5. Promotion of the Town

5.1 Tourism booklets
The Town Council is to print a tourism booklet again in 2014.

5.2 Discount booklet
Consideration was given to a discount booklet.
This is to be followed through.

5.3 Public toilets
The public toilets are being taken over by the Town Council on
Monday 23rd September.

5.4 Flower beds
The flower beds by the SPAR have been completed.
The flower beds on the corner of Union Street will be cut back tomorrow (17th)

5.5 WLLR Trail
The two murals (arranged by Alan Crowe) are just about complete. There will also be 10 information panels along the route with pictures and some sound along the old route of the train.
The railway docks and castle at the Motte and Bailey are progressing.
The art project around the TIC on the grassed area will have drawings ready for consultation on 20th September.

6. Activities in the Town

6.1 Christmas
The Secretary updated the group on the Christmas Lights arrangements.

6.2 Winter Festival
The Secretary updated the meeting on the Winter Festival.

6.3 Continental Food Markets
An update was given on the next food market, a date will be released later in the week.

7. Report on Edwina Hart visit
The Chair gave a report on the visit to the Town of Edwina Hart.
Following that two further meetings have taken place:
Tourist – Visit Wales – a business/tourist partnership
Regeneration WAG – possible inclusion for the £90m funds available.

8. Main Line Rail - enhanced service
The secretary outlined the current situation with the enhanced service and the survey taking place in October.

9. Business Rates meeting
Cllr S Kaye reported on a business rates meeting he attended.

10. New Bins for Broad Street
The secretary informed the meeting of four new litter bins to be installed in Broad Street, each is in 4 colours with 4 bins linked together to encourage recycling.

11. A mile of daffodils
The secretary confirmed that he had a meeting arranged with Kaye Derwas to agree a place for the mile of daffodils.

12. Stead and Simpson
The meeting discussed the planning application to change the use from A1 to A2 (Betting Shop) at the above.
The meeting **AGREED** that a letter of objection be sent to the change of use on the grounds of loosing prime shopping frontage. The letter to include that consideration would be given to another location in the town for another Betting Office but not in Broad Street.

13. Actions taken forward
The actions noted in the minutes will be taken forward by the relevant parties with a report given on each at the next meeting.

14. Date of next meeting
The date of the next meeting is to be Monday 18th November 2013 at 7pm in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.