

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 12th July 2017 At Stratton House Hotel

Present:

Committee

Jan Sparrow (President) Les Stephens (Vice President), David Fowles (Vice President), Ian Sumbler (Treasurer), Jonathan Davies, Annemarie Thurgood, Hilary Norris-Evans, Mark Tawn, Michelle Warner, Claire Wardell (Secretary)

Members

Mark Harris, Justin Widger, Shirley Alexander, Nigel Chute, Des Coates, Carlo Vuolo, Virginia Stourton, Ally Castle, Tony Coleman, Christine Gore, Simon King, Howard Burr, Howard Smith, Geoff Carr, Pat Wood, Amanda Wallis, Natalie Jones, Leigh Chapman, Andrew Pywell, Gaynor Hutton, Carole Boydell, David Hawes, Morwenna Scott.

Guests

Nicky Godding, Adam Vines, Luke Cameron.

1. Apologies for Absence

Fran Coulter, Dee Simpson, Steph Smyth, David Turner, David Prewitt, Gemma Reeves, Cllr Sabrina Poole, John Rivers, Iwan Lewis, Kola Tayo.

2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Jan asked the members if they were in agreeance with the changes to the constitution. All members were sent both documents at the end of June. Jan asked for the members to approve.

Approved by a unanimous show of hands

4. **President's Report (Jan Sparrow)**

The Chamber continues to grow. Membership currently stands at 133 businesses. And each business has between 1 and 100 individuals! We also have a mailing list of over 900 businesses.

We have an excellent and well-used website which we have improved and tweaked over the year, in response to both our own ideas and feedback. This is a fund of information which includes members' business listings; dates of Chamber meetings and all that's needed for our annual Business Awards.

We have been building rapidly on our Social Media presence to promote the Chamber, both on Twitter and Facebook, where you will find many photos recording our various meetings. I'd like to thank Athena Web Design for their ongoing support.

Both our Evening Networking Meetings and our Breakfast Meetings have been well attended throughout the year. I am particularly pleased to see how well the Breakfast meetings have been received. This has opened up our membership to a completely new range of businesses who are unable to make the evening meetings.

As well as relevant talks and presentations, we try to keep our members informed about Cirencester. I'd like to thank Chamber member and Town Councillor Mark Harris, for his regular attendance at our meetings to give us updates on the town.

Parking problems for businesses in Cirencester and the effects of the road works in the town centre whilst carrying out the regeneration of the Market Place have been two major issues this past year or two, and we have continually put forward our members' views on their effects to those concerned.

Although it's been a difficult period – and there are still some problems to resolve - in particular for some of our retailers, I'm sure you'll all agree we now have a splendid new Market Place in the heart of this town. This is fast becoming a lively, bustling and busy centre that we can be proud of. We have some fantastic local shops and services in our town that deserve our patronage. Let's continue to build up business, here in Cirencester!

The Chamber is very pleased to be one of the partners in the Growth Hub Network Centre which will be opening at the RAU next spring. I personally was drawn to this initiative from its early stages and I am confident that the Growth Hub will be a KEY component in the future business life of the town.

The Chamber has also supported The Abbey 900 project which is celebrating Cirencester throughout 2017, and actively boosting our businesses and trade by

bringing more people to our town – and our Market Place - to attend the events they are staging. This increased footfall produces more business for Cirencester!

The Business Awards Evening 2017 at the King's Head in May, was superb. We had over 230 guests and the evening was fabulous. It took many, many hours of hard work to organise such a successful event, and it has proved the biggest and best that we have held – so far!

5. **Treasurer's Report (Ian Sumbler)**

Ian talked through the Accounts for the year to 31 March 2017; these have been independently examined by Andrew Miller.

The main points to highlight are: The Chamber's finances remain relatively stable.

David asked if we could possibly change our end of year. Ian suggested it would be a possibility.

Proposer: David Fowles; Seconded by: Mark Tawn

Approved by a unanimous show of hands

7. **Election of Officers**

Election of the President:

Jan Sparrow is stepping down as President.

Nominated: **Les Stephens**

Proposer: Mark Tawn; Seconded by: Hilary Norris-Evans

Elected by a unanimous show of hands

Election of the Vice-Presidents

Les Stephens is stepping down as Vice President. David Fowles & Annemarie Thurgood will stand as Joint Vice Presidents.

Nominated: **Annemarie Thurgood** and **David Fowles**

Proposer: Jan Sparrow; Seconded by: Mark Tawn

Elected by a unanimous show of hands

At this point Les gave a short speech, thanking Jan Sparrow for all her hard work this year. As new President, Les would like to carry out a survey to all our members to champion what they want. Les has asked for a survey to be sent out within the next few weeks.

Election of the Treasurer

Ian Sumbler to stand as treasurer

Nominated: **Ian Sumbler**

Proposer: David Fowles

Seconded by: Jan Sparrow

Elected by a unanimous show of hands

Election of the Executive Committee:

The remaining Committee Members have agreed to stand again and were duly elected to do so, these are:

Michelle Warner, Jan Sparrow, Mark Tawn, Hilary Norris-Evans,

Elected by a unanimous show of hands

Election of New Committee members:

Three New Members have put themselves forward to join the committee

Paul Brown, Howard Burr and Howard Smith

Elected by a unanimous show of hands

(New committee members can be appointed during the year, if required)

9 Any Other Business

Les asked the room to watch the Business Awards Video, which was filmed by Corinium Radio.

Dates of Next Meetings

The next Network Meeting will be on 13th September 2017 and the next Breakfast Meeting is 21st September 2017.

The date of the next AGM is to be confirmed – provisional date 11th July 2018.

The members and guests were invited to stay on to network.

CCOC AGM 2017

The meeting closed at 8pm