

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 21st September 2022 at the Corinium Museum

Present:

Committee

Adam Vines (President), Fran Coulter (Vice President), Hannah Hockley (Vice President), Jan Sparrow, David Fowles, Howard Smith and Sarah Somers (Secretary)

Members

Claire Walmsley-Moss, Kerry Martin, Naomi Holmes, Virginia Stourton, Charlotte Lodge, Jeanette Salter, Sharla Dandy, Isobel Webb, Hannah Bloxham, Edward Lattimer, Angela Roberts, Alex Holden, James Dorey, Derek Wetter, Pete Allison, Sarah Oakley, Hilary Norris-Evans, Katharine Walker, Leigh Chapman, Kay Ransom, Kevin Young, Marc Begg, Gaynor Hutton, Mike Cameron-Davies

Guests

Carlo Vuolo, Judith Ong, Karen Young

1. Apologies for Absence

Annemarie Thurgood, Howard Burr

2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were approved by a show of hands

Proposer: David Fowles Seconded by: Fran Coulter

3. Matters Arising

Jan Sparrow noted a typo in the spelling of her husband's name.

4. President's Report (Adam Vines)

Thank you to everyone for coming along this evening – I'd like to give thanks to the Corinium Museum for hosting us tonight.

We can all agree it's been a challenging past 12 months and we've all had to be flexible and manage issues in our businesses. Unfortunately, the winter months are looking like they won't offer much respite but please rest assured that the [Chamber of Commerce](#) is here to help and if there are any specific issues you'd like us to champion for you, please let us know.

Firstly, I'd to give you an update of the last 12 months of what's been happening in the Chamber:

In March, in partnership with the Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses, we launched the **Together Gloucestershire project**.

This ongoing initiative has been developed to help build a supply chain between micro and small businesses and larger local organisations. There are a huge number of benefits to this project, including increased revenue for local businesses along with environmental and social impact too.

The project is still in its infancy and as far as we can, tell no-one else in the country is attempting what we are trying to achieve.

However, we have some of the biggest organisations in the county as part of the project including SJP, Spirax Sarco, Ecotricity and Gloucestershire County Council to name but a few.

Awards

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Cirencester Business & Community Awards in July. It was a fantastic evening that brought the town's businesses and residential communities together to celebrate what's great about Cirencester. I'd like to give a congratulations to all our winners and runners up, along with the team who helped us put it together.

Although the Chamber is not a political organisation, we made our members that **Liz Truss** was visiting Cirencester during her leadership campaign in August. It gave members the chance to speak with her directly on issues that were important to them.

I'd also like to thank the Committee for all their hard work over the past 12 months. They volunteer their personal time to help run the Chamber on your behalf and without them the Chamber just would not exist. I'd also like to say a thank you to Sarah, our super-secretary, who continues to make sure everything happens when it should.

So what's the plan for the next 12 months?

It's hard to plan in uncertain times but we will continue to work closely with key stakeholders such as the Town and District Councils and being YOUR voice in the business community, whilst engaging more with the area's larger employers.

Along with the ongoing **Together Gloucestershire** project we will also be planning some new initiatives for the next 12 months, namely:

Trades and Skills Employment

Sustainability and the Environment

Special Events and Awards

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, the members, not just for turning up this evening but for continuing to support the Chamber over the last 12 months.

5. Treasurer's Report

Howard Smith presented the financial statements in draft status for the financial period 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022. He reported that these accounts will be independently reviewed later in the year by Millers Accountants and a copy can be requested by any member.

During the period in question the Chamber has had 3 income streams - memberships, the Business & Community Awards and My Cirencester.

- Memberships – there has been an encouraging, recent increase in membership income from £5,175 in the prior year to £6,128, with the number of members now just over one hundred.
- Business & Community Awards – as the awards event took place in July its income and expenditure will be reported in next year's accounts.
- My Cirencester - the scheme was launched in early summer 2021 with the financial support of the Welcome Back Fund to help the local business community recover after lockdown. A small deficit (£571) was shown last year due to the upfront nature of setup and design costs. This year has produced a small surplus (£819).
- Running Costs – operational expenses were kept to a minimum in the period and were in line with our planned expectation. There was an extraordinary expenditure of £1,620 for the design and build of the new Chamber website, launched in November 2021.

The combined net income less direct expenses from our activities amounted to £12,829 (£8,722 in 2021) and after deducting running costs and one-off web expenses there is a surplus of £819. (£2,032 in prior year).

this period and was presented with a leaving gift from her Committee colleagues by the President.

Four new nominations had been received and due to the number of Committee vacancies, all were eligible for election. Their bios should have been circulated with the Agenda but due to a misunderstanding are only now attached with the Minutes.

Nominated: **Marc Begg, Nick Hunt, Faye Reynolds and Claire Walmsley-Moss**

Proposer: David Fowles Seconded by: Mike Cameron-Davies

All four nominees were duly elected by a unanimous show of hands in a block vote.

8. **Any Other Business**

There being no other business the formal part of the evening ended and we moved to the Atrium for networking and light refreshments.