

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at the Corinium Museum

Present:

Committee

Adam Vines (President), Fran Coulter (Vice President), Hannah Hockley (Vice President), David Fowles, Howard Burr, Marc Begg, Howard Smith and Sarah Somers (Secretary)

Members

Virginia Stourton, Sharla Dandy, Derek Wetter, Pete Allison, Hilary Norris-Evans, Emma Stuart, Kevin Young, Gaynor Hutton, Joanne Pendlebury, Di Cronin, Stephen Meyer, Christine Read

Guests

Ollie Ridgeway, Matt Corke, Tony Golby

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Annemarie Thurgood, Nick Hunt, Claire Walmsley-Moss

2. **Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved by a show of hands

Proposer: Derek Wetter Seconded by: Sharla Dandy

3. **Matters Arising**

None.

4. **President's Report (Adam Vines)**

Adam thanked everyone for coming along and Emma Stuart for her brief update on Project Orpheus and for hosting the event at the Museum. He then explained that there would need to be an **amendment of the Chamber's Constitution** in order to allow him to stand as President for a further term of 2 years.

Proposer: Howard Burr Seconded by: Virginia Stourton

He then ran through the **Chamber's current projects:**

- Future-proof your business
- Apprenticeships and training
- Together Gloucestershire

And talked about his **plans for the year ahead:**

- Improved communications and visibility (raising the profile of the Chamber)
- Business Community Meetings
 - Themed meetings
 - Informative speakers
 - Continued Professional Development (CPD)
 - Q&A Sessions
 - Refreshments

The first event in the 2023/24 programme will be in October, details to be released shortly.

The Chamber has been asked by Cotswold District Council to input into their **long-term car parking strategy** for Cirencester and is therefore calling for volunteers to join a working group. Anybody interested should contact the Chamber Secretary (info@cirencesterchamber.org.uk)

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Howard Smith presented the financial statements in draft status for the financial period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023. 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 2 income streams - memberships and the Business Awards.

- Memberships – there was an increase in membership income from £6,128 in the prior year to £8,781 with the number of members now ? ??.
- Business Awards – as the 2023 awards event took place in July its income and expenditure will be reported in next year's accounts. A small loss was made on last year's Business & Community Awards due to it being held in a larger venue with smaller ticket revenue.
- Running Costs – operational expenses were kept to a minimum in the period and were in line with our planned expectation.
- The combined net income less direct expenses from our activities amounted to £7,058 (£8,544 in 2022) and after deducting running costs there is a small surplus of £183 (£819 in prior year).

The financial statements were put forward for approval.

Proposer: Howard Burr Seconded by:

There were no questions and the Chamber's accounts were duly approved by a unanimous show of hands.

6. Election of President and Officers

Howard Burr took over at this point whilst the post of President was voted for. Adam Vines put himself forward for a third year as President.

Nominated as **President: Adam Vines**

Proposer: Howard Smith Seconded by: Hannah Hockley

Adam was duly re-elected by a unanimous show of hands (and applause) and immediately reprised the role of meeting host.

Hannah Hockley and Fran Coulter had agreed to stand again as Joint Vice-Presidents.

Nominated as **Joint Vice-Presidents: Fran Coulter** and **Hannah Hockley**

Proposer: Howard Burr Seconded by: David Fowles

Fran and Hannah were duly elected by a unanimous show of hands.

Howard Smith was happy to continue as Treasurer of the Committee.

Nominated as **Treasurer: Howard Smith**

Proposer: Derek Wetter Seconded by: Hilary Norris-Evans

Howard was duly elected by a unanimous show of hands.

7. Election of Committee

The remaining Committee Members had agreed to stand again:

Howard Burr, Marc Begg, Claire Walmsley-Moss and Nick Hunt

Proposer: David Fowles Seconded by: Kevin Young

This group of individuals were duly elected by a unanimous show of hands in a block vote.

David Fowles and Annemarie Thurgood had both decided to stand down after in excess of 30 years between them on the Committee. They

were both thanked for their respective contributions to the Chamber over this period.

Two new nominations had been received and due to the number of Committee vacancies, both were eligible for election. Their bios had been circulated with the Agenda.

Nominated: **Dan Stubbins**

Proposer: Howard Smith Seconded by: Sharla Dandy

Nominated: **Derek Wetter**

Proposer: Hannah Hockley Seconded by: Sarah Somers

Both nominees were duly elected by a unanimous show of hands.

8. **Any Other Business**

David Fowles then took the stage and addressed the assembled company. He announced the forthcoming Cirencester Community Awards that Cirencester Community Development Trust and Cirencester Radio were putting on, riding on the success of the Cirencester Business and Community Awards of 2022. The Chamber President will be one of the judges and the awards will be presented in the Kings Head Assembly Rooms by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

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