

**KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & ENTERPRISE Ltd**

**MINUTES OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD**

**ON**

**FRIDAY 22 January 2021**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Directors:** Richard Lavender, (President), Jo James, (Chief Executive), Carole Barron, (Honary President), Henry Nydam, (Company Secretary), Tim Allen, John Bunnett, Miranda Chapman, (Chair), Tracey Kerly, John Taylor, Chris Hare, Ray Johnson, Andrew Metcalf, Luke Quilter, Stuart Whorlow, Jo Worby

**Present:** Adam Marshall, (Guest Speaker) Adrian Gee-Turner, Alison Wright, Andrew Metcalf, Andrew Riedl, Anuschka Natley, Babette Powell, Barbara O'Neil, Bryan Price, Carole Barron, Chris Hare, Chris Pound, Daniel Sangiuseppe, Debbie Green, Graham Card, Jan Alexander, Jo Jenner, Jo Worby John Nicholson, John Taylor, Jon forbes, Jonathan Masucci, Kate Watkins, K Stevens, Lara Day, Laura Bevan, Lara Pool, Luke Quilter, Mark Christie, Mark Howard, Mike Newton, Miranda Chapman, Neil Vanstone, Nick Hawley, Ray Johnson, Richard Lavender, Richard Hicks, Sally Newall, Sonya Kimpton de Ville, Stuart Whorlow, Tim Allen, Tim Sheppard, Tracey Kerly, Trevor Sturgess, Waleed Jamil

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and stated that apologies from members would be recorded in the minutes.

**1. Apologies**

John Finn-Kelcey, Jamie Pheasant

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 1 November 2019 and were confirmed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising

**Proposed:** Bryn Price

**Seconded:** Carole Barron

**3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's Report had previously been circulated to the Members.

(FULL REPORT CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE)

MC said the the Kent business community has shown drive, verve, dedication and sheer determination this year much the same as the late Dame Vera Lyn did during the World Wars. Businesses have adapted in the toughest, changeable and challenging year. She asked that, where possible, these businesses support and



**6. Election of President**

In line with Board Governance Richard Lavender will continue as President and Carole Barron as Honary President for a further year.

**7. Appointment of Auditor**

Wilkins Kennedy FKC for 2019/2020

**8. Fixing of Auditor's Remuneration**

The Chairman asked for authorisation for the Board to fix the Auditor fees.

**Proposed:** Jo Worby

**Seconded:** Chris Pound **Vote:** Carried

**9. Any Other Business**

No questions were received and MC then handed over to the CEO for an update

**10. Chief Executive Update**

JJ began by saying this is the first on-line AGM for the Chamber and it had all run very smoothly. She went on to say we all have a part to play in keeping ourselves safe in the current situation. Companies, people and the country as a whole had no time to prepare for this situation. Businesses have coped very well with the changes they have had to make because of the pandemic.

What does the Chamber look like today? Well it is calm on the outside but behind the closed doors it is paddling hard to keep up.

We have held 116 online events with 5071 people attending. JJ would like to think the Chamber has given everyone the opportunities to keep in contact.

We have passed on up to date information on Covid and Brexit

Membership retention rate has only dropped by 2%. The international team have coped with leaving the EU and document numbers are up on the last financial year. We have now started doing customs declarations for our customers.

The conferencing side of the business is not being used at the moment because of the restrictions.

Business Support is very busy – we are very grateful to the local authority who gave the initial funding and continue to provide funding to enable us to help local businesses.

To conclude it has been a difficult and challenging year but for the Chamber a successful year. We have supported our members through the year and will continue to support them in the coming years.

**11. Vote of thanks**

The vote of thanks was given by Miranda Chapman who asked everyone to join her in thanking the Chamber staff and the Board for all their hard work over the last year. She said there is a great structure across the county with the EDGs, the Finance and Audit committee, the KCFG and all the members. She finished by wishing everyone well for the year ahead.

JJ then introduced Adam Marshall, Director General of the BCC who was the guest speaker following the AGM. JJ said she is very sorry that AM is stepping down at the end of March and thanked him for what he has done over the last 10 years. The network of Chambers working together is down to Adam's guidance and he will be leaving the Chamber network in a far better place than it was in when he joined.

A big thanks and good luck for the future.

MC then closed the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting