

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & ENTERPRISE LTD

MINUTES OF THE 28TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD VIA ZOOM ON

FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2022

Directors: Jo James (Chief Executive), Richard Lavender (President), Carole Barron (Honorary President), Tim Allen, Miranda Chapman (Chair), Chris Hare (Vice Chair), Tracey Kerly, John Taylor, Ray Johnson, Andrew Metcalf, Luke Quilter, Stuart Whorlow, Jo Worby, Nick Hawley, Richard Hicks, John Keefe

Company Secretary: Henry Nydam

Present: Alan Benfield, Bryn Price, Carole Barron, Andrew Metcalf, Chris Hare, Clare Reeves, Claudi Rey, Debbie Green, Dom RR, Emily Lockwood, Gary Johnson, Gill Gibb, Graham, James Wilford, Jan Alexander, Jan Post, Jen Howell, Jo Worby, John Taylor, Julie Allen, Katherine Stevens, Keith Casson, Keith Roberts, Laura Bevan, Mark Quinn, Martin White, Owain Williams, Patience Ogunbona, Richard Bowe, Richard Lavender, Sally Newell, Stuart Whorlow, Terence Starr, Tim Allen, Tim Higgs, Tim Sheppard

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 28th Annual General Meeting and stated that apologies from members would be recorded in the minutes.

1. Apologies:

Liz Newell, Jamie Pheasant, Gary Wood, Richard Hicks, Martin Kingman, Ray Johnson

2. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 22 January 2021 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the President

2.1 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Proposed: Carole Barron

Seconded: Richard Lavender

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had previously been circulated to the Members and a copy is on the Chamber website.

The Chairman started by saying this is her last AGM as Chair and she would shortly be handing over to the next Chairman, Chris Hare. MC said she believes that Chris is just what Jo and the Chamber needs as we move forward. She said her term as Chairman has been unusual with most of it been fulfilled from a screen and laptop. MC thanked JJ for everything she is doing and has done for the county.

She has been able to take part and support some exceptional initiatives during her term as Chair despite the pandemic – International Women's Day, chairing her first 'hair-raising' webinar on 'how to utilise your crisis communications, social media and digital footprint' and the first ever Kent Invicta Chamber Virtual Conference. Before closing MC thanked the board of the chamber. It is a board packed with talent – people from finance, law, education, public service and HR to name just a few areas. Finally the members were thanked for their continued support.

4. Annual Report and Accounts

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 have been approved by the Board and confirmed by the Auditor.

Adoption of Accounts

Proposed: Jo Worby Seconded: Richard Lavender Vote: Carried

5. Directors

5.1 Since the last AGM the following Members have resigned as Directors on the Board:

There have been no resignations since the last AGM

5.2 The following Members will continue for the second year of their elected term: Jo James, Carole Barron, Tim Allen, Richard Lavender, Andrew Metcalf, Richard Hicks, John Keefe, Stuart Whorlow, Nick Hawley

5.3 The following Members will continue for the third year of their elected term: Chris Hare, John Taylor, Miranda Chapman, Tracey Kerly, Joanna Worby

5.4 The following Members have completed their third year of their elected term and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election:

Ray Johnson, Luke Quilter

Proposed: Tim Allen

Seconded: Carole Barron

5.5 The following Members have been co-opted during the year and being eligible, offer themselves for election:

No-one has been co-opted during the last year.

5.6 Nominations

There have been no nominations received

6. Election of President

Richard Lavender will continue as President for the coming year and Carole Barron will remain as honorary President for the coming year.

MC told the Members present at the AGM that Chris Hare of Mid Kent College has been nominated by the Board to take over Chairmanship for a period of 2 years and Andrew Metcalf of Maxim PR will take over as Vice Chair for the next 2 years. MC then handed over to CH to continue with the meeting. CH thanked MC for all her hard work over the last 2 years.

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2022/2023

Wilkins Kennedy FKC for 2022/2023

8. Fixing of the Auditor's Remuneration

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

Proposed: Tim Allen

Seconded: Jo Worby

Vote: Carried

9. Any other business

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

10. Chief Executive Update

JJ thanked MC on behalf of the Board, the team and herself saying MC was the right skill set needed for Chairman through a pandemic.

The Chamber team rose to the challenges faced by the pandemic and made a quick transition from face to face business to a virtual one and have done an amazing job.

JJ told the Members that we have been working hard collectively over the last 12 months with government both locally and nationally. We have been very visible online. The Chamber team have gone above and beyond when you have needed us most.

Business Support has given advice to 9000 businesses. £11.5 million has been made available in the form of grants and loans.

The Kickstart scheme has helped young people find work placements.

Our customs team has helped businesses through Brexit and with their customs declaration documents whilst our export team have continued to complete export documents for our customers.

The membership and events team have held over 100 events with 8000+ delegates.

Membership has grown by 5% and our EDGs continue to help and support local businesses.

We have reached out to 10,000 businesses across the county to discuss current and future needs regarding skills.

JJ concluded by thanking the team for all their hard work and commitment, thanking the members of the Board and the working groups and saying she looked forward to working with Chris moving forward.

Finally JJ said a huge thank you to the Members of the Chamber for their continued support.

11. Vote of thanks

The vote of thanks was given by Graham Card of Corporate Liquidity Partners Ltd

Graham said he had been a member of the Chamber for longer than he cared to remember and that he had worked with many of the staff and attended lots of events. He thanked the Board and the staff and said he looked forward to working with them moving forward.

CH told the members they were welcome to join the guest speaker, Mark Quinn of Quinn Estates following this meeting, after which there would be time for networking.