

# MINUTES

## HAILSHAM & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 6PM  
AT NOW! TRAINING GROUP, HAILSHAM ROAD INDUSTRIAL  
ESTATE, HAILSHAM

### Present:

Anton Bree – Chairman  
Andrew Rannie - Treasurer  
Nick Collinson  
Colin Slaughter  
Clive Soper  
Claire Baker  
Jacky Hinton

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman, Anton Bree welcomed committee members and attendees to the Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce AGM. There were no apologies to report.

#### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting dated 13 May 2015

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and seconded as being an accurate record and were approved accordingly.

#### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Anton Bree) delivered the Chairman's report as follows:

- More Committee members were needed to join the Hailsham Chamber and therefore encouraged new members to come forward if they are interested.
- There were not as many events organised last year and that this should be remedied.
- The networking breakfasts were very well attended with over 30 people at each event throughout 2015/16.

### Action

- Commercial activity in the town had been prosperous over the last year 2015/16. Although due to the level of 'lettings' available probably kept activity lower in terms of preventing some shop traders moving into larger units.
- Hailsham road improvements are due to commence in mid-June. The Chamber are encouraging members to take a positive stance about the changes. The Chamber recognises that the improvements will be disruptive to trade in the High Street and George Street whilst road works take place and will seek to work with the Council to help and support traders in any way they can.
- Funding has been given the go ahead for the Swan Business Park and is now underway. This will bring additional business into the town by attracting larger businesses will move out of Eastbourne to Hailsham.
- The residential market is increasing as an increase in new developments are pushing prices up in and around the Hailsham District.
- Looking forward for the Chamber it was agreed that more joint events should be organised with local businesses and local Chambers.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support over the last year and a special thanks to Colin Slaughter, Andrew, Rannie, David Brown and Peter Willson for all their continued support and contribution.

## 5. Annual Accounts

The Treasurer (AJR) presented the accounts and provided a net cash balance of 17,000. AJR explained that expenditure was up on last year and that memberships had increased but that there had been little outgoings in terms of events organised. The committee had agreed to organise more training events for Chamber members and non-members to attend.

No queries were raised on the accounts.

### **Membership Report**

The current memberships stand at 61 which has increased by 20 members in the last year.

The Membership Secretary (JH) has produced a new joining pack and renewal letter which includes more details of the networking breakfast and newsletter subscription.

It was agreed to do more to encourage new members to join over the next year with a view to pushing towards 100 members by the end of 2017.

### **Newsletter**

The newsletter circulation has increased to 100 subscribers which an average 'read' of 42% which is way about the industry average of 15%.

### **6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair announced that he was standing down and that there would be an election of a new Chair and Vice Chair. The nominations were as follows:

- Petrina Mayson was nominated as Chair and received 14 votes in favour
- Claire Baker was nominated as Vice Chair and received 14 votes in favour.

### **7. Election and re-election of Committee Members**

The following elections were proposed as follows:

- Treasurer – Andrew Rannie agreed to continue as treasurer and received 14 votes in favour.
- Events/Parking - Colin Slaughter agreed to continue as Events/Parking Committee members and received 14 votes in favour
- Town Centre – Nick Collinson agreed to continue as Town Centre committee member and received 14 votes in favour.
- Committee Member – Clive Soper agreed to continue as committee member and received 14 votes in favour
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Jarred O'Toole agreed to continue as Anti-Social Behaviour and received 14 votes in favour
- Committee Member – Anton Bree agreed to take a committee member role and received 14 votes in favour
- Membership Secretary – Jacky Hinton was nominated as Membership Secretary and received 14 votes in favour.

The new Chair said that she was positive about taking the Chamber forward and looking forward to working with the new Vice Chair and Committee members and all work together to support members and increase membership.

**8. Affiliation with The Sussex Chamber of Commerce**

An Affiliation Agreement with the Sussex Chamber of Commerce was presented to the Chamber for discussion. The key benefits of an affiliation were outlined in the document in terms of the purpose of the agreement and the requirements of the accredited Chamber of Commerce

After some discussion the committee agreed not to pursue proposal further and to research the possibility in more detail at a later stage.

**9. Agree the Hailsham Chamber Constitution**

The Hailsham & District of Commerce Constitution document was presented to the Committee for agreement. The document was agreed by all 14 members of the committee and is therefore adopted as The Chamber's constitution document.

**10. Any Other Business**

Peter Willson asked the Chamber if there were any volunteers to become involved in Hailsham FM Radio Station to please contact him.

Nick Collinson thanked Anton Bree on behalf of the Committee members for his Chairmanship of the Chamber.

Dave Barton at Webreality (Hailsham Chamber member) offered to review the Chamber's website as it had been discussed at previous meetings. It was agreed that Webreality would meet with Chamber Committee members to discuss this further with a view to taking the idea forward.

Mickey Caira informed local businesses about signing up for the Town Card and that he would forward on more details in due course.

The Committee discussed the possibility of moving the networking breakfast back into the Town Centre. It was discussed whether to wait until Chapter 12 had opened the newly refurbished Function Room and ALL agreed with this proposal.