



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 20 May 2014

At 6.30pm at Seaford Golf Club, Firle Road, Seaford

Present:

Gerri Ori	President
Joe Fackler	Treasurer/Vice President
Rachel Brown	Secretary
Dave Argent	Events Co-ordinator
Jonathan Chappell	Graphicz
Alasdair Fortune	Badger Inks
Lee Potterton	Housemartins
Helen Pollard	Seaford Health Store
Paul Franklin	Seaford Town Council
Robert Bull	Avanti World Wide
Anne Clarke	MCL Transport Consultants
John Evans	JJM Auto & Marine Services

1. Welcome

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Neal Richardson, Sue Van Heuvelen, Sonia Marshall, Sam Shippen and Rob Blackman.

3. Minutes of last year's AGM

The minutes were agreed as a true record and adopted by the Meeting.

Proposer: Joe Fackler

Secunder: Jonathan Chappell

4. Matters Arising

There were none

5. Presidents Report

"This year could be called the year of change for our illustrious chamber. We started the year I think you will all agree with poorly attended breakfast meetings. Together we have managed to change this from around a dozen attendees for this meeting, *if we were lucky*, to on average around 30 members and visitors each month.

How did we do it? Firstly - we changed our venue to the pleasant surroundings that we are in this evening. Secondly - the standard of food at our breakfast meeting is superb, a big thank you to the resident chef Peter and his staff. Thirdly – we have managed to get some great speakers that have provided very interesting and entertaining talks. We have also changed our Secretary and have taken on the very well organised Rachel. Rachel provides the professional services that we need; she has introduced the Constant Contact Communication tool which has been really useful – *most importantly we can send our breakfast order through to her!!!*

Our committee meetings have also changed in both time and venue, again held monthly at the Golf Course. We no longer have to rush our meetings and I would like to thank all of the committee for their time which is voluntary.

The membership numbers have greatly increased in the last few months; this has been helped by Rachel reconciling our existing memberships to ensure that everyone has paid. This year we have introduced an all new information pack - and I would like to thank Alasdair Fortune, Jonathan Chappell and Rachel for making this happen. This pack has been instrumental in encouraging new members, when they join the Chamber of Commerce they are given membership packs which Rachel organises. We have now made it a lot easier to join Chamber and have introduced an online application and payment facility.

Mr Chamber Dave Argent was helped principally by Rob Bull in organising and manning the barriers for the French Market last week, which was another great success. They were there setting up from 6.00am and clearing up until around 8.00pm a long day for both of them. *Thank you both very much.*

Congratulations to Dave Argent on winning two awards recently. He won the *Don Mabey Shield* at the Mayors Civic Awards Evening and the *Seaford Presidents Award* at the Seahaven Business Awards evening. On this note the committee have unanimously agreed that Dave should be recognised for all of his hard work over the years for Seaford Chamber and we would like to ask him to become our Chamber Ambassador. But behind every good man is a good woman and we would like to thank his lovely wife Marion for supporting Dave. I also would like to take this opportunity show my appreciation for the great help and support my fiancée Anne has given. Thank you putting up with me.

This year we have changed the way we work with Newhaven and Peacehaven Chambers. We are now working more closely and organised an evening meeting with both of them and I was given the honour of helping to judge the Seahaven Awards. Over one hundred people attended the recent Seahaven awards, it was a great evening and well done to our Chamber Members, Alasdair and Sonia who were amongst the winners.

We have now changed the way we work with Lewes District Council. I have built up really good relations with Rob Blackman, Peter Sharpe and Sophie Moss - my thanks goes to them for their very kind help. I am on the Business Board of Lewes District Council and was privileged to be invited to the recent Lewes Business Awards. It was a fantastic, well organised and entertaining evening, well done again to Badger Inks and Seaford Lifeguards on their awards.

The Christmas Magic event was superb and was well attended by the residents of Seaford. The shops and businesses in the town made a great effort to join in with the Christmas spirit! A big thank you to Neil Richardson and Dave Argent who served on the Christmas Committee. I would also thank the Town Clerk, Sam Shippen and Ben King.

Neil Richardson and I have represented the Chamber on the Impact Seaford Committee, which is a collaboration of all of the councils, Town, District, County and local business organisations. The purpose of Impact Seaford is to provide a framework for joint working to develop and implement projects that will deliver the Seaford Vision. The Chamber was successful in winning the bid for the Mary Portas funding of £10,000, this was granted to Seaford to help regenerate local business. This money will go towards developing and publicising our town by using the Love Seaford theme in communications such as a website, town guide and phone applications.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our committee this year for their hard work in helping Seaford Chamber of Commerce move forward and achieve our goals.”

6. **Treasurers Report**

Joe Fackler gave an overview of the financial situation, detailed in the Accounts presented to members. A deficit of £982.60 for the year was recorded although there was still an overall healthy balance of funds held. Activities have been more numerous which has helped to increase revenue. There is no proposal to increase the subscriptions this year. The Accounts were adopted by the meeting.

Proposer: Alasdair Fortune

Secunder: Robert Bull

7. **Ratification of the Constitution (revised)**

This document had been circulated to members. The revised Constitution was adopted by the meeting.

Proposer: Joe Fackler

Secunder: Robert Bull

8. **Election of Officers and Committee**

Jonathan Chappell reported on the improvements to the website. A vote of thanks was recorded to Jonathan for his work on keeping the website up to date and informative.

Alasdair Fortune reported on the improvements to branding consistency and membership recruitment. A vote of thanks was recorded to Alasdair for his work in creating the membership pack and banner. His branding expertise was acknowledged.

Election of President: Gerri Ori agreed to continue in this role for the coming year.

Proposer: Joe Fackler

Secunder: Jonathan

Election of Treasurer: Joe Fackler agreed to continue in this role for the coming year

Proposer: Rob Bull

Secunder: Lee Potterton

Election of Vice President: Alasdair Fortune agreed to be nominated for this role for the coming year.

Proposer: Gerri Ori

Secunder: Joe Fackler

Committee: The remaining members of the Committee were elected en bloc as follows:

Membership: Alasdair Fortune

Community Service Liaison: Robert Bull

WebMaster: Jonathan Chappell

Events Co-ordinator: Dave Argent

Town Council Representative: Paul Franklin

Town Clerk: Sam Shippen

(the Secretary is an ex-officio member of and appointed by the Committee)

Proposer: Paul Franklin

Secunder: Lee Potterton

The President explained that additionally, sub-committees relating to Markets, Impact Seaford and Christmas Magic would report to the main Committee and other members would help out if they could on an ad-hoc basis.

9. **Any Other Business**

Paul Franklin offered an alternative option for Committee Meetings at a very competitive rate.

The meeting closed at 7.03pm