

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Monday 18TH May 2015
At 7.00pm at Seaford Head Golf Club, Southdown Road, Seaford

Present:

Gerri Ori	President
Joe Fackler	Treasurer
Rachel Brown	Secretary
Alasdair Fortune	Vice President
Jonathan Chappell	Graphicz
Robert Bull	Access Audit
Neal Richardson	Splashpoint Music
Ian Jenkins	Swindells

1. Welcome

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Received from Andy Steer, Dave Argent, Paul Franklin and Helen Pollard.

3. Minutes of last year's AGM

The Minutes were agreed as a true record, signed by the President and adopted by the meeting.
Proposer: R Bull, Seconder: J Fackler.

4. Matters arising

There were none.

5. President's Report – Gerri Ori

“This year has been a good year for our illustrious Chamber. We have increased membership by 25%, moved location again for our breakfast meetings and now have the money from the Mary Portas bid to enable us to progress with our Town App.

We have been very lucky this year to have some quality speakers including The Sussex Police Commissioner, Rathfinney Wine Producer, ACES and Seaford Youth forum to name a few.

Committee meetings

Our committee meetings are now being held in the newly-built Seaford Head Gold Club and we are privileged to be able to use the Don Maybe Room. We would like to thank Ollie and his hardworking team.

Membership

As I said previously the membership numbers have increased by around 25% in the last year and hopefully we can improve on this in the coming year. The wheels have been set in motion for the new Chamber of Commerce membership cards that will entitle Chamber Members to a discount at places such as Wave Leisure.

French Market

Mr Chamber (Dave Argent) was helped principally by Rob Bull in organising and manning the barriers for the two French Markets held this year, both of which were great successes. I also want to say how great it was that we had more people volunteering to help them this time. Thank you to all that made it a good day.

Awards

Congratulation to Rachel, she was presented with the *Seaford Chamber Presidents Award* at the Seahaven Business Awards evening. Seaford Chamber also had runners up in the Retailer of the Year (Badger inks) and Customer Care (Brooklyn Hyundai) at this event. Wave Leisure who are members of all three Chambers won the Best Environmental Business Award and Newbury Tully came third - well done.

At the Mayor's Awards this year, Peter Gwilliam won the Don Maybe trophy and I would like to congratulate him.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Joe Fackler our outgoing Treasurer for all of his hard work; he has served the Chamber for many years. Joe's company Swindell's have supported us by allowing their staff to work on Chamber business.

Building relationships

We have vastly improved relations with our neighbouring Chambers of Newhaven and Peacehaven to form an alliance known as Seahaven Chambers. New joint events have been planned for the coming year and our aim is to continue our involvement with the Seahaven Awards.

Impact Seaford

Neal Richardson and I have been involved over the last year on the Impact Seaford committee which is a collaboration of Town, District, County Councils, local businesses and Chamber. We are working on a number of initiatives for the town and we have been involved in the decisions on which may best suit our town. One of the main objectives of this committee is to overcome any barriers that may have existed and communication between us now all works a lot more freely.

Christmas

This was the first year of the Christmas Magic event being held on a Saturday and it was a resounding success. The effort made by everyone leading up to and on the day was superb and it 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!

Thank you to Neal Richardson, Dave Argent and Jonathan Chappell who served on the Christmas Magic Committee and to everyone who helped out on the day.

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

And finally it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Chamber President for the last two years. I am very pleased to be handing over to Alasdair Fortune and wish him well".

The President' Report was adopted by the meeting. Proposer: J Fackler, Seconder: N Richardson.

6. Treasurer's Report

A report had been presented to the meeting. JF highlighted salient points:

- Increasing the price has reduced the loss on breakfast meetings.
 - Subscription income increased due to the number of members and a further increase is forecast for the coming year.
 - The total deficit was a decrease on the previous year and the forecast.
 - The budget forecast was to break even; with the projected income streams and the decision not to make a donation this year to the Xmas lights or give the Tombola proceeds, this was achievable.
 - Balance sheet was clarified - JF stated the losses could not be sustained but the outlook was brighter.
- He thanked the Committee for their support and was pleased to be handing over to Ian Jenkins. JF was thanked and presented with a token of appreciation.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted by the meeting. Proposer: R Bull, Seconder J Chappell.

7. Committee Reports

- J Chappell presented an annual review on website traffic which was discussed. The facility to join on-line has resulted in increased membership. The Website Manager and Secretary are working more closely together and an additional social media activity has increased the Chamber's visibility.
- Membership Report – A Fortune confirmed the increase of 25% due to additional efforts and use of the Visitor Pack. Need to continue building the membership to drive revenues and the Chamber continues to be a voice for businesses in Seaford especially with Xmas Magic. A new Membership benefits card was being introduced from 1 June. The majority of members were attending Breakfast meetings but there were still some businesses who are not aware of the Chamber. The launch of the Town App would assist in making the Chamber look more professional which together with regular communications from Secretary and website/social media updates from Jonathan was creating an organisation that more traders would wish to be part of.
- Community Liaison – R Bull confirmed there was still a reticence from traders to belong to the Chamber, but he hoped the Town App will start to pick up the individual businesses. In Seaford, over 400 businesses have been identified who are not paying business rates and are therefore not listed – so there is a market not being tapped.

8. Election of Officers

President: G Ori was standing down and A Fortune agreed to be nominated for this role in the coming year.

Proposer: G Ori, Seconder: J Fackler

G Ori was thanked for his tenure as President over the last two years and the efforts made to boost the Chamber. A Fortune hoped to continue this work.

Vice President: A Fortune was standing down and P Franklin had agreed to be nominated for this role in the coming year.

Proposer: R Bull, Seconder: N Richardson

Treasurer: J Fackler was standing down and Ian Jenkins had agreed to be nominated for this role in the coming year.

Proposer: G Ori, Seconder: J Chappell

There were no other nominations, therefore the remainder of the Committee would be voted in en-bloc.

Following discussion relating to the position of Secretary and Assistant Secretary, it was agreed the Constitution should be re-visited at the next Committee Meeting, scheduled for Monday 1 June at Seaford Head Golf Club.

9. Any Other Business

- a) N Richardson suggested the cost of breakfast should be increased to £10.00 - the additional revenue could contribute towards the Xmas Magic event. This would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.
- b) R Bull felt that a sum of (say) £200 should be put towards awards and competitions, rather than Xmas Magic.
- c) G Ori mentioned that other local Chambers showed their member listings differently and suggested the Seaford Chamber list could be used for spam purposes. Security and search facility would be discussed further at the next Committee Meeting
- d) Inter-Chamber Karting Challenge – members were encouraged to apply.

Meeting closed at 7.52pm