

EXETER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (1992) LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 5.45pm on Monday 11th November 2019 at City Gate Hotel, Iron Bridge, Exeter EX4 3RB.

PRESENT

Mark Pellow (Chairman - outgoing)	Vickery Holman
Matthew Roach (Chairman - incoming)	Exeter Airport
Amanda Grabham	Axminster
Graham Austin	Barclays
Laura Seaward (Treasurer)	Bishop Fleming
Joanne Caine	Cathedral Appointments
Julie Hawker	Cosmic
Derek Phillips (Vice President)	Exeter Phoenix
Steve Campion	Exeter College
Andrew McNeilly	Guildhall Shopping
Ann Hunter	InExeter
Paul Nero	Radio Exe
Chris Lorimer	South West Growth Service
Nick Baxter-Sibley (Vice Chairman)	Signs Express
Tim Wadworth	Space
Yvan Williams	The Oddfellows
Clodagh Murphy	
Lisa Vanstone	Exeter Chamber of Commerce
Alyson Stenner	Exeter Chamber of Commerce

6 Chamber members were also in attendance.

MP welcomed Chamber members to the meeting and updated on the year gone by:

We have had another very busy year delivering various different projects. Through our successful application for funding, we were able to deliver a programme to help businesses prepare for Brexit. We were able to deliver expert advice to our members and the business community across Greater Exeter to ensure they have considered any changes they need to make in their business, when we leave the EU.

Chamber has also collaborated with the City Council and Air Marketing to launch a local buying initiative, aimed at encouraging businesses to consider switching to local suppliers where possible, with a rollout across Greater Exeter. While we think the initiative to switch from national suppliers to local is to be commended both to support the local economy and to hopefully have an environmental benefit on supply chains too, it is not signalling an inward view on business outlook. There will be more to follow on business and sustainability with a joint project from Chamber and Oxygen House, currently being worked on.

We would like to thank our premium partners, Wollens, SW Comms and Reach, who enable the Chamber to continue to deliver a wide programme of events, information and activities across the year. In 2019, we have delivered 67 events and welcomed over 2,500 attendees, including a new format 'The Business Breakfast Briefings'. These have been very well received, with presentations from Exeter City Council's chief exec and growth director Karime Hassan, Devon County Council chief exec Phil Norrey and David Ralph, chief exec of the Heart of the South West LEP generating discussions and questions about the city and our collective vision for the future.

The Chamber sub-groups continue their work in core areas for Exeter, with the Exeter Airport Business Group taking on businesses requests to expand and re-name as the East of Exeter Group, and Marsh Barton Forum and Exeter Initiative of Science and Tech thriving under new leadership, with Paul Nero and Clodagh Murphy heading up the respective organisations. I would like to congratulate the ExIST group for their recent achievement as a finalist in the Tech South West event, through the group's commitment to celebrate diversity and address gender imbalance in the quarterly publication, Insight – best of luck on the night!

Amid challenging times for all business, but particularly for retailers, Exeter Chamber is strongly supporting InExeter's renewed ballot for a further five years delivering excellent service in the city. Exeter Chamber is proud to have been a founder of the Business Improvement District in the city and has watched the success of InExeter delivering marketing, cleansing, city dressing, training and events, supporting retailers and helping to make Exeter stand out.

This is my last report as chair of the Chamber, as I stand down along with long-term Chamber directors Derek Phillips, Graham Austin, Nick Baxter-Sibley, Sara Bond, Chris Lorimer and Andrew McNeilly. I would like to thank all of these directors for giving their time over the years, but in particular Derek who has committed a huge amount of time and energy to the Chamber driving it forward as the city's voice for business.

I would like to wish the Chamber's new board members the very best for their terms. I hope that they enjoy the experience of representing this exciting business community in such a vibrant and dynamic city, primed for even greater things.

- 1) The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018 were adopted by CL and seconded by SC.
- 2) Apologies were received from Laura McFadyen.
- 3) The financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2019 were approved by MP.

LS, Treasurer reported on the accounts.

- a. Income and expenditure across main Chamber consistent and stable year on year
- b. We are reporting a £12k loss, of which £3.7k is Chamber and £8k ExIST. £8k investment from ExIST to publish Insight using previously generated sponsorship. A programme of further activity to increase ExIST revenues is being rolled out.
- c. Chamber reserves are healthy and stand at £23.5k.
- d. Income for 2019-2020 set to grow with significant sponsorship from Wollens and swcomms and project work from BEIS, as well as continued sponsorship for events from companies including Princesshay, InExeter, Jurassic Fibre, Foot Anstey and Exeter College.

LS added that a new strategy will be implemented for the coming year with the aim to boost membership numbers and income generation.

4) **Appointments:**

Ann Hunter was appointed to the board – CL adopted and JH seconded

Amanda Grabham was appointed to the board – CM adopted and JC seconded

Paul Nero was appointed to the board – NBS adopted and SC seconded

Helen Scholes was appointed to the board – JH adopted and PN seconded

Tim Wadsworth was appointed to the board – CL adopted and JC seconded

Yvan Williams was appointed to the board – CM adopted and AM seconded

Resignations:

MP added the resignations of those who have now served the maximum term on the Board, himself included. Resignations are from: Derek Phillips, Mark Pellow, Andrew McNeilly, Chris Lorimer, Graham Austin and Nick Baxter-Sibley.

MP thanked all of those stepping down with a special thanks to Derek Phillips for his commitment and time on the Board since 2004. He has been a big influence in the business community with his knowledge and support for all.

MP handed over to incoming chair MR at this point of the meeting.

MR gave his thanks to the previous board and directors which are resigning. MR - Delighted to take role on and looking forward to working with the new Board. A main priority is to now seek to define priorities, through membership consultation and board strategy day.

The first initiative Chamber will be working on in the new year is focused on sustainability – as per dinner announcement and as a result of working with Met Office and Oxygen House.

5) AOB

No update.

This meeting closed at 5:53pm.