



## MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on **Tuesday 20 March 2012** at  
Peacehaven Football Club at 7.30pm

In Attendance: 16 Members

Apologies received from:

Neil Cameron	Wave Leisure
Claire Duc	Newhaven Enterprise Centre
Chris Bray	Leads Direct

### 1. Welcome and Chairman's Report

Gary Maskell welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the apologies.

The Chamber has had a good year – one of the highlights was May Madness (Breakfast Club) and various successful evening events which add value to membership. This time last year, Chris Chandler joined the Committee and he had contributed a lot to the team. The Breakfast Club continues to grow from strength to strength and much business is still done between members. The Chamber has changed and evolved over the 5 years it has been in existence and members were thanked for their support.

### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20 March 2011

These were agreed as a true record.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Helen Macaulay tabled the report of annual accounts with a small deficit of only £57 for the previous financial year. The Breakfast Club is clearly the most profitable activity of the Chamber. If there were any queries, she was happy to discuss.

### 4. Committee 2012/13 (no elections this year)

Due to the 3-year rolling rotation system for elections to the Committee, there were no elections this year and no new nominations, so the Committee is staying as it is. However Phil Merry will become Vice Chair although Phil Howson will stay on as part of the team.

### 5. Change to the Constitution

Rachel Brown outlined the reason for changing the Constitution to allow additional members to be elected to the Committee in future (or co-opted as the need arises).

Change of wording for item 7.2 currently reads:

“The Committee shall **total** eight fully paid up members...”

The proposal was to change the wording to read:

“The Committee shall **consist of at least** eight fully paid up members....”

The change was proposed by Bob Welch and seconded by Phil Merry. Following a vote, the motion was carried.

## **6. Business Awards**

Phil Merry outlined the background to the Awards and nomination/voting process.

### **Nominees for Business Person of the Year** (in no particular order)

Andrew Melbourne, Bob Welch, Chris Chandler, Christian Fleming, Gary Maskell, Helen Macaulay, Phil Blackwell, Phil Merry, Rachel Brown, Rich Tesch, Sheila Knight, Simon Studd.

### **Business Person of the Year was: Phil Merry**

Awards of Merit went to Bob Welch and Rachel Brown

### **Nominees for Business of the Year** (in no particular order)

Clean Cut Gardening Services, Focus Media, Helen Macaulay Bookkeeping, Icon Business Solutions, Leads Direct, Newhaven Enterprise Centre, Northstar IT, Peacehaven FC, Secretary Outsource, Studio Crafts, Tennyson Suite, The Flowershed, WASP Printers.

### **Business of the Year: Secretary Outsource**

Awards of Merit went to Clean Cut Gardening Services and Focus Media

Gary Maskell outlined the reasons behind changing the name from the Chairman's Award to The Chris Ogden Memorial Award and the reasoning behind the choice of the winner.

**The Chris Ogden Memorial Award was awarded to: Sheila Knight, The Flowershed.**

## **7. The Year Ahead**

The Breakfast Club would remain the main focus and the Committee was endeavouring to identify some interesting speakers as well as inviting members to make presentations. Visits were also planned – a return to the Sewage Works and Peacehaven FC. Additionally, for those unable to attend the Breakfast Club, the Curry Club is gaining momentum with a regular following.

A series of workshops is being planned to feature networking skills and these would probably be evening events. Ideas are still being discussed and feedback was welcome from any of the members. The Chairman wished everyone a successful year ahead and hoped to see everyone again soon.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.