



MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on **Tuesday 26 March 2013** at
Telscombe Civic Centre at 6.00pm

In Attendance: 16 Members

Apologies: No apologies had been received.

Chairman Gary Maskell announced that the Business Awards would be announced first in a change to the Agenda and handed over to Vice Chairman, Phil Merry.

The categories were announced and this was the 5th year the Awards have been given. Members were invited to nominate 3 other members and the scoring system was outlined. First prize in each is awarded a monument and 2 merits in each category. This year voting was so tight, more awards of merit were given.

The nominees for Business of the Year were (in alphabetical order):

Advice 4 Business, Chandler Editing & Writing, Chatawak, Clean Cut Gardening Services, Focus Media, Haven Security, HM Bookkeeping, Howson & Son, Jarlands, Leads Direct, Northstar, Peacehaven FC, Studio Crafts, Sussex Business Bureau, Tennyson Suite, Wasp Printers

The winner was: Clean Cut Gardening

Award of Merit – Advice 4 Business

Award of Merit - Jarlands

Award of Merit – Northstar

Award of Merit – Studio Crafts

The nominees for Business Person of the Year were (in alphabetical order):

Andrew Melbourne, Bob Welch, Chris Bray, Chris Chandler, Christian Fleming, Gary Maskell, Helen Macaulay, John Laurence, Lynn Paris, Mark Derrick, Matt Chambers, Phil Howson, Rachel Brown, Rich Tesch, Sheila Knight, Simon Studd

The winner was: Simon Studd

Award of Merit – Chris Bray

Award of Merit – Gary Maskell

Award of Merit – Mark Derrick

The Chris Ogden Award was given to Phil Howson in recognition of his service to the Chamber from its inception.

1. Welcome & Chairman's Report

Chairman Gary Maskell stated he felt it had been a good year and the Chamber had gone from strength to strength. The Breakfast Club continued to thrive with some interesting speakers. Whilst acknowledging that times were tough, members were still there and much business was done at meetings on a regular basis. The Curry Club was also increasing in popularity with a steady following. Nigel Enever had brought a welcome injection of ideas and feedback onto the committee since he was co-opted.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20 March 2012

The Minutes of last years' Annual General Meeting were agreed as a true record.

Proposer: Gary Maskell

Seconder: Helen Macaulay

All in favour.

3. Treasurer's Report & adoption of Financial Accounts

A statement of the financial position was circulated to those present. The Chairman explained that the £20 per month standing order had worked really well. Membership was steady; a Visitors Day was held recently to try and drive some new members into the Chamber. New blood is always needed for new suppliers and new business. If the Chamber has more money, more can be done. For the first year ever, the Breakfast Club made a profit.

It was proposed that the Financial Statement be adopted by the meeting.

Proposer: Gary Maskell

Secunder: Phil Merry

All in favour.

4. Election Results and details of the Committee 2013/2014

On a three-year rotation, **Gary Maskell** stood down from the Committee but offered himself for re-election. Secretary Rachel Brown conducted the election as follows:

Proposer: Phil Blackwell

Secunder: Chris Chandler

All in favour.

Following his re-election, Gary Maskell proceeded with the elections. On the three-year rotation, **Phil Merry** stood down from the Committee but offered himself for re-election.

Proposer: Helen Macaulay

Secunder: Gary Maskell

All in favour.

Nigel Enever had indicated his willingness to stand for election to the Committee.

Proposer: Helen Macaulay

Secunder: Chris Chandler

All in favour.

Gary Maskell named the remainder of the committee and confirmed that individual roles were decided between them. Phil Howson had resigned from the Committee due to other commitments.

5. Business Awards – see above.

6. The Year Ahead

Gary Maskell confirmed that it was hoped the Chamber would now be more of a voice in the community now that it had an official 'Ambassador' – Nigel Enever - and some of the events attended were producing some excellent ideas including the Members Directory. Costings indicated 80 members was the target to make it viable and it was hoped this would encourage more members. Richard Wilder (Pama Signs) proposed that the Chamber should proceed with the production via an additional payment and GM confirmed that more advertising was an option. The budget and ideas were discussed. GM suggested the Chamber's mission for the year was 80 members.

A retail evening was planned on 1 May to discuss the Meridian Centre – Simon Kirby had been vocal about this recently. A 'Breakfast over Dinner' event was booked at the Golf Club for 14 May – the concept was outlined. The Committee held Planning Meetings which were now going to be held twice per year.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.