



MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on **Tuesday 16 June 2015** at
Woodies, Peacehaven Golf Club at 8.00am

Attendees: P Merry - Vice Chairman
H Macaulay - Treasurer
R Brown - Secretary
C Chandler - Website
N Enever - Ambassador

A total of 11 Members

Apologies: G Maskell – Advice4Business
C Fleming – Northstar Technology
P Brown – P&A Electrical

1. Welcome & Chairman's Report

Phil Merry welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that Gary Maskell will continue as Chairman but he was standing in until Gary was able to resume. Membership had been fairly static this year. The Breakfast Club continues to be successful with a variety of speakers and the Curry Club has a new venue at Maloncho. Interaction with Peacehaven Community School had been established and more liaison with other local chambers continued during the last year with a Breakfast Over Dinner event, quizzes and the recent Karting challenge, as well as Seahaven Business Awards where Peacehaven members enjoyed some success. A visit to Westminster was a particular highlight of the last year – climbing the Elizabeth Tower and hearing Big Ben strike midday was unforgettable! The first Chamber Directory was distributed to thousands of homes in Peacehaven, Telscombe Cliffs and East Saltdean and had been well received. Rachel continues to send out regular e-mails summarising news, advice and opportunities to keep members informed. Committee members were also thanked for their work.

The Chairman's Report was accepted by the meeting.

Proposer: Helen Macaulay

Secunder: Jeremy Sogno.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 3 June 2014

The Minutes of last years' Annual General Meeting were read out by the Secretary and agreed as a true record.

Proposer: Nigel Enever

Secunder: Simon Studd

3. Treasurer's Report & adoption of Financial Accounts

A statement of the financial position was circulated to those present. The Treasurer confirmed it had been a successful year and highlighted the profitable elements. Chris Bray queried where website costs were noted – this was covered under Advertising. Jeremy Sogno asked whether there were any capital reserves. The Treasurer confirmed the current bank balance was in the region of £2,500 and represented the total assets of the Chamber. A vote of thanks to the Treasurer was proposed by Chris Chandler.

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

Proposer: Phil Merry

Secunder: Chris Chandler

4. Nominations, Elections and details of the Committee 2015/2016

It was confirmed that the existing Committee had been elected on a 3 year rotation during the previous two years and therefore no elections were due this year. The Committee would comprise the same people as the previous 12 month period. Jeremy Sogno proposed a vote of thanks for the entire Committee for their work.

5. The Year Ahead

Phil Merry outlined some of the plans for the forthcoming year which included representation at the local Summer Fayre in July, a visit to Newhaven Incinerator (dates to be confirmed), another Breakfast Over Dinner event in conjunction with Newhaven, Seaford and Lewes Chambers (dates to be confirmed), in addition to the usual Breakfast and Curry Club. However, the Committee were proposing a few changes to the Breakfast meetings by appointing someone different to Chair them. Initially the proposal was to have a term of 3 months and both Simon Studd and Paul Yates-Smith had agreed to take on this role. However, Simon had proposed the term be extended to 6 months as the Chamber met only twice per month and following discussion, this was agreed. Simon would therefore commence as Chairman from the next meeting. Additionally, a round of referrals and testimonials would be re-instated at meetings where possible.

Finally, Simon Kirby MP had agreed to attend a breakfast meeting on Friday 6 November and the Chamber was especially pleased that he had found time in his busy schedule. The Lewes District Business Awards was taking place in July and Rachel was attending on behalf of Peacehaven Chamber.

6. The meeting closed at 8.30am.

Members were then invited to put forward any views or ask questions.

- Chris Bray suggested that by removing the break between member one-minute presentations and the speaker, more time could be made for the Referrals and Testimonials round. Phil Merry responded that whilst time should be allowed for members to network, perhaps the time could be better utilised. This would be reviewed by the new Breakfast Chairman.
- Jeremy Sogno suggested periodically dedicating a meeting to promote membership and inviting potential members along. It was confirmed that Visitor's Days had been held in the past for this purpose and it would be something for the new Breakfast Chairman to consider.
- Phil Merry asked members for their views on combining the Breakfast Meetings with Newhaven Chamber on a regular basis. Following discussion it was agreed that whilst a joint Breakfast was of benefit on the odd occasion, Peacehaven should retain its own identity. It was acknowledged the concept did need freshening up with some new ideas and Simon Studd stated that he was very much looking forward to that challenge.
- Chris Chandler mentioned that he produced Peacehaven Town Council's online magazine and suggested that the Chamber's breakfast meetings be promoted through that medium. This was agreed.