ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AYRSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HELD at the Aviator Suite Prestwick Airport

Thursday 22nd September 2016 17.00

**ATTENDING**

Ian Allan, Karen Armstrong, Moira Birtwistle, Chic Brodie, Marjorie Calder, Graham Campbell, Brian Connolly, Alan Cotton, Stuart Cresswell, Martin Duffy, Carolyn Elder, Robert Ferguson, Iain Forrest, Elaine Forsyth, Lorna Gibson, Robert Gordon, Frank Gormanley, Dr Waiyin Hatton, Guy Hinks, Maureen Johnstone, Jim Johnstone, Graeme McKinstry, Lorraine Murray, Hiba Omar, Norman Rennie, Alison Somerville, Derek Stark, Hilary Stewart, David Wilkinson.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Claire Baird, Helen McBride, Danielle McPherson, Yvonne Munro, Anne Reid, Val Russell.

**WELCOME**  
The President, Stuart Cresswell, welcomed the assembled audience to the Annual General Meeting of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and expressed his appreciation for their attendance. The President, then went on to say that the Chamber was in great shape, the accounts showed a good closing balance, and that there was a good strategy in place for the future, he also mentioned the ongoing great work with the young people of Ayrshire, good partnership working with the three local authorities. He then commended Val & her team for their hard work.

1. **NOTICE**  
   With the consent of those present, the notice calling the meeting was taken as read.

1. **APOLOGIES**

1. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th September 2015 were taken as read and approved unanimously. The motion was proposed by Waiyin Hatton and seconded by Brian Connolly

##### REPORT OF DIRECTORS

Valerie Russell, Chief Executive, welcomed the members on behalf of the Directors and highlighted a year of the Chamber.

Val stated that the AGM was an opportunity to look back at the work and achievements of the past year, and the previously circulated annual report gave an overview of some of the Chamber activities. She took this opportunity to thank the Chamber’s Partners for Business, who support many of its activities; all the events sponsors over the year, in particular QTS and Barclays for the Annual Dinner, and Ingrams Motoring Group Awards Dinner. She also thanked those businesses who sponsored print, filming etc over the course of the year, the Board of Directors and the strategic partners, including the three local authorities, Ayrshire Ayrshire College, Business Gateway, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Development International, Scottish Enterprise and Taste Ayrshire, UWS who’s collective am is to grow Ayrshires economy.

2015 – 201 was a busy year at the Chamber, which saw the move to new premises within the airport. If Prestwick becomes the UK first spaceport, the Chamber will be even more ideally located.

Val gave a brief summary of the past year at the Chamber and which included:

* Passing its International Trade Inspection and given an ‘exemplary’ commendation;
* Achieving the BCC Re-accreditation, a robust process of external verification, covering all aspects of the business;
* Achieving *Invest in Young People Award*, the first Chamber in Scotland to have done so;
* Good attendance at events and training courses throughout the year and which included the highest number at the Annual Dinner in the Chamber’s history;
* The Education Team sourcing over 5000 work experience placements and creating over 500 links between businesses and schools;
* Increasing the social media presence considerably;
* Representing businesses, not just individuals, and speaking on behalf of firms of all sizes – from sole traders right through to multi-nationals, from new start-ups to long established family businesses - and across all sectors;
* Chamber services being well established. For example, Chamber Healthcare delivered by Westfield Health having 1800 policy holders in Ayrshire, reflecting the Chamber’s efforts to support the health and wellbeing of Ayrshire’s workforce.

Val concluded by saying that the Chamber has an exciting year ahead and hoped that members will join the next stages of the journey in making Ayrshire the best place to work live and play.

The approval of the Report of the Directors was proposed by Carolyn Elder and seconded by Brian Connolly. The Report was unanimously approved by members present.

##### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

##### Treasurer, Robert Fergusson, gave a summary of the accounts and reported that the Chamber had a healthy balance sheet. This was detailed in the Annual Report which had been previously circulated to all members and can also be obtained from [www.ayrshire-chamber.org](http://www.ayrshire-chamber.org) as a pdf document. The treasurer conclude his report by thanking the Chamber Finance Officer Adrienne Howard for all her work through the year in preparing the accounts and the report form the auditors Rogerson & Goldie Brian Swan was unqualified.

These accounts were adopted on the proposal of Marjorie Calder and seconded by Lorna Gibson. Those present approved the Accounts unanimously.

1. **DIRECTORS WHO HAVE RESIGNED**

They were no resignations of directors for the year 2015-2016

1. **RETIREMENT OF DIRECTORS**

In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association adopted by the Board on September 2010, the following Directors were due to retire:

Gordon Hunt - University of the West of Scotland, Ayr, KA8 OSX

Derek McGarvie – Bank of Scotland, Kilmarnock, KA1 1NP

President Stuart Cresswell acknowledged the contributions of the retiring Directors. He thanked them on behalf of the Board of Directors

1. **RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association adopted by the Board on September 2010, the following Directors are eligible for re-election:

David McKay- MacKay Corporate Insurance Brokers, Ayr, KA7 2AY

Stuart highlighted that the Directors who have served their first term of office have put in significant contributions to the Board, both within and out with formal Board meetings. The Board is, therefore, recommending their re-election to a second term.

On the motion of Robert Ferguson and seconded by Iain Forrest, the Directors were re-elected.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS**

Following an open recruitment from Chamber members, the Board was delighted to have selected four successful applicants. Together with existing directors, the Board composition will better represent the landscape of Chamber membership in terms of sizes, types and geographical spread of the membership.

In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association adopted by the Board on September 2010, the following new Directors were recommended by the Board for approval:

Frank Gormanley - Entrepreneurial-Spark, Olympic Business Park, Drybridge Road, Dundonald, KA2 9BE

Ian Allan - Wallace Allan Ltd, 4 Newmarket Street, Ayr, KA7 1LJ

Norman Rennie - Seamill Hydro and Resort, Ardrossan Road, Seamill, KA23 9NB

On the motion of Robert Ferguson, and seconded by Brian Connolly, the new Directors were elected.

##### AUDITORS

On the motion of Carolyn Elder, and seconded by Marjorie Calder, the meeting approved the appointment of Rogerson and Goldie Chartered Accountants, 29 Portland Road, Kilmarnock, as auditors of the company, at a remuneration to be fixed by the Directors.

##### AOB

There was no other business.

The AGM ended at 18.00.

There then followed Audience with our guest speaker former Scotland Rugby International Tony Stanger.

**Partners for Business:** Ayrshire College, Bank of Scotland, Barr, Frazer Coogans Commercial Solicitors, Halo Communications Ltd, Healthy Working Lives, Hillhouse Quarry Group Ltd, Ingram Motoring Group,Launch, Lighthouse IT Network Services, MacKay Corporate Insurance Brokers, Munro Partnership Ltd, QTS Training, SP Energy Networks, Voca Contact Centre Services, West FM, Westfield Health, Wm Duncan & Co.