



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AYRSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HELD at the Carlton Hotel on the Thursday 14th September 2017 17.00

ATTENDING

Anne Blacklock, Liam Brodie, Rhona Brown, Murray Buchanan, Graham Campbell, Marc Charron, Brian Connolly, Jack Cowan, Scott Davidson, Maureen Day, Alastair Dewar, Robert Fergusson Lee Foster, Emma Frew, Lorna Gibson, Frank Gormanley, Anne Hay, Janice Hendry, Shirley Husband, Graham Hyslop, Kirsty Innes, Kris Jackson, Michael Kean, Neil MacCallum, Laurence Malyon, Graeme McKinstry, Chris McMail, Craig Maxwell, Michelle McNeil, Robert McNaughton, Gillian McNeilly, Stuart Miller, Declan Milligan, Jake Murray, Stuart Munro, Scott Niblock, Michael O'Brien, Lyndsey Phillips, Norman Rennie, David Ross, Colin Roxburgh, Scott Shepherd, Scott Sinclair, Claire Thomson, Brian Wade, Martin Welsh, David Wilkinson, Allan Wilson, Scott Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

WELCOME

The President, 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 and 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.

2. APOLOGIES

Callum Bastock, Marjorie Calder, Waiyin Hatton, Colin McNally, Helena Morrow, Sarah Muir, Euan Terras, Janie Thomson, Niven Rennie, Ron Smith,

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th September 2016 were taken as read and approved unanimously. The motion was proposed by David Wilkinson and seconded by Lorna Gibson.

4. REPORT OF DIRECTORS

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

It is my pleasure to present the report of the Directors for the period April 1 2016 – March 31 2017

It's been quite a year! At this early stage I would like to remind members we too are a small business, times are tough and we too suffer from the uncertainty that snap elections, and increasing overheads bring to your businesses including Brexit.

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 - First Independent Finance and Barclays Bank for the sponsorship of the Platinum dinner, Munro Partnership, now known as 1825, who sponsored the Business Awards Dinner, but also those members who sponsor design, print, donate raffle prizes etc over the course of the year. The Board of Directors, strategic partners including the three local authorities, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Development International, Ayrshire College, UWS, Business Gateway Ayrshire, Ayrshire Business Women. The list goes on and I apologise to those I may have missed. As a Chamber we are experts in partnership working.

So 2016 – 2017 what have we been up to at the Chamber?

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

- 2463 documents processed supporting our local exporters to get their goods to market.
- Our social media continues to grow, as for many small businesses it has become a key marketing tool.
- We also launched a new website in partnership with Microtech Digital Ltd.
- The Chamber continues to run both Buy Ayrshire & Love Ayrshire social media. both aimed at increasing local business.
- Over the period of this report we held 52 events attended by over 2000 delegates.
- 2017 saw us introduce Connect, a monthly free networking for both members and non members.
- 121 first aid at work training course 31 companies have undertaken international trade training,
- 18 Business Boosts with 125 delegates

She then thank all the training partners.

The Chamber continues to host Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire, a Scottish Government funded initiative aimed at reducing Youth Unemployment and increasing the engagement between business and education establishments. June 2017 saw them publish their second annual report. We are determined that together we can make a difference not only for the young people of Ayrshire but for you as employers by supporting them to have the skills and attitude you need in your business. You can help us to achieve this by offering work placements, careers talks, and mock interviews or get involved in one of the many innovative projects.

The AGM were then shown a video about Developing Young Workforce Ayrshire made by the Chamber's very own young person, Danielle, who joined us to do a MA in business admin but went on further to gain a diploma on Digital Marketing.

The Chamber network represent businesses, not just individuals, and we speak 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. Chambers of Commerce are a globally recognized. Through involvement with both Scottish Chambers and British Chambers of Commerce you really are part of the Ultimate Business Network. Thank you to all our members for their continuous support in particular those who refer us to others. Thanks also go to the dedicated Chamber Team across all areas of our work

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 Brian Connolly and seconded by Alison Sommerville. The Report was unanimously approved by members present.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Treasurer, Robert Fergusson, gave a summary of the accounts and informed the AGM that the board had approved a new way of reporting the accounts to the 31st March 2017. He then 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 as a pdf document. He then informed the members that the report from Brian Swan Director of Rogerson and Goldie Chartered Accountants that the Chamber received an unqualified report.

6. DIRECTORS WHO HAVE RESIGNED

Stuart Cresswell - Associated British Ports Port Office, North Harbour Street, Ayr, KA8 8AH

7. 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:

There were no directors who were due to retire.

8. 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:

There were no directors up for reelection.

9. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Following an open recruitment from Chamber members, the Board are 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;

Martin Welsh - Booth Welsh Automation Ltd, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine, KA11 5DJ

Chris McMail - Microtech Support Ltd, 17-19 Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HA

Graham Campbell - SP Energy Networks, Ayrshire & Clyde South, Unit B4 Southcraig Ave, Kilmarnock, KA3 6BQ

Janice Hendry – Yipworld, 19 Barrhill Road, Cumnock, KA18 1PG

10. AUDITORS

On the motion of Moira Birtwistle and seconded by Frank Gormanley, 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.

11. AOB

The President reminded members that this was the Platinum Year of celebrations for the Chamber and encouraged members to take part in the forthcoming events programme.

The President then thank Vice-President Lorna Gibson for overseeing the Platinum Events Programme.

The AGM ended at 15.45

There then followed a presentation by Patrick Wiggins Ayrshire Growth Deal.

Partners for Business: Ayrshire College, Bank of Scotland, Barr, Frazer Coogans Commercial Solicitors, Halo Communications Ltd, 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.