



Annual General Meeting

held on Tuesday 07 March 2023
at 8.00 am at the Burger & Bird

MINUTES

Committee Members

Mark Derrick
Simon Studd
Paula Gander
Jacqui Flavell
Grahame Bannister
Matt Gray
Davinia McGann

In attendance:

Stuart Foster
Marijana Dragojevic
Simon Whitney
Jackie Gillespie
Paula Woolvern

1. Welcome, Chairman's Report

Simon Studd formally welcomed everyone to the AGM of Peacehaven & District Chamber of Commerce, for the year ending 31st January 2023.

2. Apologies - Simon Studd advised Sue Moscatelli had sent her apologies.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 7 June 2022

These were agreed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

Proposed by: Jacqui Flavell

Seconded by: Marijana Dragojevic

All in Favour? Carried unanimously

4. Chairman's Report – Simon Studd

Simon Studd provided his report as follows:

The Chamber

"Firstly, I want to thank all the Committee members for the work that they undertake week in and week out behind the scenes. Not only are we in constant contact with one another to help maintain the success of the Chamber but we also meet monthly to discuss best practice, new ideas and all general Chamber matters that arise. Special thanks to Jacqui for hosting the Committee Meetings and providing the refreshments.

I thank the Committee whole heartedly for your hard work throughout the year. Mark Derrick as the Vice Chair and Treasurer, Paula Gander as the Secretary, Grahame Bannister as the Web Master, Grahame Bannister as web master, and Committee Members Matt Gray, Jacqui Flavell and Sue Moscatelli. Everybody contributes and works hard in the background.

Moving onto the highlights of the year for me as Chairman. Firstly, the Chamber has had some great speakers attend the Breakfast Meetings. Our MP Lloyd Russell Moyle, David Crozier from the National Coast Watch, Amanda Young from Sussex Chamber of Commerce, Lucy Jo Symonds our Peacehaven Town Mayor and Mark Winton from East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, to name but a few.



The Chamber has also supported local events, donating refreshments for the Kempton House Jubilee celebrations and helping to organise, in partnership with Peacehaven Town Council, the Welcome Back Peacehaven Event. Paula laid a wreath at the Memorial on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of Peacehaven Chamber to honour all the brave men and women who lost their lives’.

The greatest highlight as a Chamber Chairman was to see the continued resolve of the Chamber and the determination of the local businesses adapting to the current situation and overcoming the covid pandemic. The Chamber has had to adapt and strive towards greater use of technology, greater use of social media and other platforms to get the Chamber voices heard and communicate with our audience. We have lost a few members but also gained more new members and our Breakfast Meetings at the Burger and Bird are well attended.

We have enjoyed many social events together, the scariest was the Ghost Walk & Dinner in the cellar at the Old Ship Hotel! but a great success. Our annual Bowls event is gaining in popularity and was a great fun evening. The Chamber also offered a Free Health Check and Free Business Training from our Committee Member Jacqui Flavell and Chamber Member Gary Maskell.

The annual Seahaven Business Awards was well represented by Peacehaven Chamber members and we were proud to see the following winners in the categories below;

President’s Award: Young Business Person of the Year

3rd place – Ben Harris Photographer

Best Environmental Business

1st place – Havens Food Cooperative

3rd place (joint) – Chris Allen & Sons

Business Person of the Year

2nd place – Paula Woolvern of Havens Communit Hub

3rd place – Chris Allen of Chris Allen& Sons

Best Customer Service

3rd place – Cloud, Voice & Data

Business of the Year

1st place – Cloud Voice & Data

3rd place – Chris Allen & Sons

A great night of celebration followed, and we eagerly await the forthcoming Seahaven Business Awards on 12 May 2023. So don’t forget to enter by 24 March 2023!”

The Chairman’s Report was adopted by the meeting.

Proposed by: Stuart Foster

Seconded by: Grahame Bannister

All in favour? Carried unanimously



5. Treasurer's Report

Mark Derrick reported on income, expenditure, and bank balance to the year-end 31st January 2022.

“Income increased to £8,864.59 compared with £7,112.92 for the previous year with cash receipts, members standing orders, Bank credits and GoCardless payments.

Expenditure – Increased to £9,57.60 compared with £6,318.00 for the previous year. Main items were the Breakfast Club expenditure increasing to £3,930 an increase of £2,199.40. The cost of breakfast has increased plus we are charged for a minimum of 15+ people at every breakfast. Secretarial duties increased slightly to £2,541.25 an increase of £261.25. Paula works a lot of additional hours without charging. Website and website hosting by Madison £836.60.

Surplus loss for year: £1,093.01 loss compared with £794.92 surplus for the previous year. The increase in both the annual membership and monthly breakfast meetings has been a great help and we are going in the right direction to have a surplus in 2024.

Paula has been promoting more photos on Facebook and community organizations to improve awareness of the Chamber and the Chamber likes and followers has more than doubled since the previous year.

Copies of the banking accounts are available to view and are shown monthly to the Committee. We have moved from Barclays Bank to Lloyds Bank and an additional card for Paula should make life easier.

The Treasurer's Report is available on request”.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted by the meeting

Proposed by: Marijana Dragojevic

Seconded by: Simon Studd

All in favour? Carried unanimously

6. Nominations, elections and details of the Committee 2023/2024

Simon Studd, is due for re-election on a 3 year rolling basis and has agreed to stand as Chairman

Proposed by: Grahame Bannister

Seconded by: Jacqui Flavell

All in favour? Carried unanimously

Mark Derrick is due for re-election on a 3 year rolling basis and has agreed to stand as Treasurer/Vice Chairman.

Proposed by: Stuart Foster

Seconded by: Grahame Bannister

All in favour? Carried unanimously



Grahame Bannister is due for re-election on a 3 year rolling basis and has agreed to stand as Web master.

Proposed by: Paula Gander

Seconded by: Jacqui Flavell

All in favour? Carried unanimously

Paula Gander will be continuing in the role of Secretary for the forthcoming year therefore no election is required.

Matt Gray will be continuing in the role of Committee member for the forthcoming year therefore no election is required.

Jacqui Flavell will be continuing in the role of Committee member for the forthcoming year therefore no election is required.

Sue Moscatetti will be continuing in the role of Committee member for the forthcoming year therefore no election is required.

The Chamber has received 1 new nomination to join the Committee:

Davinia McGann has offered herself for election as a Committee Member

Proposed by: Jacqui Flavell

Seconded by: Paula Gander

All in favour? Carried unanimously

7. The Committee members for 2023/24 therefore comprises

Simon Studd	-	Chairman
Mark Derrick	-	Vice Chairman and Treasurer
Paula Gander	-	Secretary
Grahame Bannister	-	Webmaster
Matt Gray	-	Committee Member (Social Events)
Jacqui Flavell	-	Committee Member (Membership)
Sue Moscatelli	-	Committee Member (Marketing)
Davinia McGann	-	Committee Member

8. The Year Ahead

Simon outlined his vision for the year:

“2022 has seen a turbulent time in both our private and business lives with Covid still present and the Russian Invasion in Ukraine bringing heart ache to many. With ever rising costs this is also having an impact and we face challenging times ahead.

The Chamber is here to support and nurture you and help grow your businesses where possible, to look out for each other, and provide help to the community.



As a Chamber we have come through and survived, we have lost a few members but gained some great new members as well and the plan is to continue growing through 2023/24. To increase our membership and most importantly to retain our current members. You are all important individuals and are all special in your own way, and all bring something to the Chamber to keep it successful and thriving. It is important that we increase our membership in 2023/2024 so we will be driving member success and bringing on new businesses. So, I ask you, who do you know who you think will benefit from joining the Chamber, by receiving business advice and keeping updated with the latest news and events in the area? Please invite them along to the next meeting as your guest.

I am proud to be your chairman and look forward to growing the Chamber with some exciting times ahead. Our Social Events planned for this year consist of a trip to the I360 with a fish and chip supper, two Bowls Events booked in for 19 May and 11 August. and a Vineyard Tasting Tour. So watch this space“.

9. Close of formal meeting

Simon Studd thanked everyone for attending the AGM and deemed the meeting closed at 8.30 am.

Open Forum opportunity to discuss thoughts and ideas

Mark Derrick commented on the deficit by explaining the Chamber has over 60 members but only a small percentage attend Breakfast Club Meetings. Recommendations to improve the average number of 14 were key to offset the breakfast payment of £180+ per breakfast meeting. Alternative venues had been discussed but none were available with good acoustics and a screen.

Mark continued to say that going back 10-15 years the Chamber held a trade show which was very popular and gained more members, and a similar event would be beneficial. Funding is our main issue and we need to gain more revenue.

Paula Woolvern offered assistance in raising funds and with Paula's well known expertise everyone was enthusiastic to receive her help and guidance. The main concern was to confirm whether Peacehaven & District Chamber of Commerce was a registered CIC (community interest company) or not for profit organisation. Once confirmation received then Paula together with Jacqui Flavell could help in securing additional funding.

Stuart Foster appreciated the monthly Newsletter which contained a lot of information and helped him with the kick start scheme.

All members welcomed the two planned bowling events and more social events.