

Minutes of the 165th Annual General Meeting of Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC) held on Wednesday, 2 September at AGCC, The Hub, Aberdeen Energy Park, Exploration Drive, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8GX and by Zoom.

Present: 49 attendees from 37 member companies plus:

Colette Backwell, President, AGCC
Russell Borthwick, Chief Executive, AGCC
Sue Stephenson, Finance and Corporate Services Director, AGCC

1. Welcome and Introduction

The President welcomed members in the room and those attending via Zoom to the 165th Chamber Annual General Meeting and thanked Ledingham Chalmers for their sponsorship.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 164th AGM of AGCC, held on 18 June 2019

The President sought approval of the Minutes from last year's AGM. This was proposed by Pádraig McCloskey and seconded by Derren McRae.

3. Directors' Report and Financial Statements for 2019

The President thanked MHA Henderson Loggie for conducting the annual audit process commenting that last year saw a robust set of financial results with another trading surplus delivered. This placed us in a good position to invest in further developing our member support offer during 2020 and has subsequently helped us to counter the effects of Covid-19 on our core income streams.

The President thanked the Chief Executive for his leadership of the Chamber and wider business community throughout this period, as well as the full Chamber team for adapting and providing support to our members at this time.

The President sought approval for the Annual Report and Accounts. This was proposed by Deborah O'Neil and seconded by John Brebner.

4. New members of Board & Policy Council

The President introduced Finance & Corporate Services Director Sue Stephenson to announce the results of the Board and Policy Council recruitment and election processes. Sue reported that an open recruitment process had been held for Board members with shortlisting and interviews carried out by the People & Remuneration Board sub-group. Derren McRae and Deborah O'Neil were recommended to be re-appointed to the Board to serve a second three-year term. This was proposed by Spencer Buchan and seconded by Shelley Woodhead.

Sue Stephenson also reported that John Brebner and Jennifer Young are stepping down from the Board and thanked them both for their time, commitment and expertise over the years.

The Board's proposed successors for John and Jennifer are Bob Keiller and Ray Riddoch. This was proposed by Pádraig McCloskey and seconded by George Yule.

Moving on to the Policy Council elections, Sue reminded delegates of the purpose of the Policy Council and added that in order to maintain strong connections with key public sector bodies in the region it is proposed to create three statutory positions not subject to the election process. Therefore, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and NESTRANS will be invited to nominate senior representatives to ensure discussions and decision-making is fully aligned. This was proposed by Derren McRae and seconded by Deborah O'Neil.

Sue continued that there is provision for up to 30 elected members of the Policy Council and the following members are standing down; Belinda Miller, Bob Keiller, Joanna Fraser, Nat Anderson, Simpson Buglass, Tim Smith and Tom Sanders who were thanked for their contributions to the Chamber.

There were 17 nominations for 10 vacancies and based on the election result Maggie Bochel will be re-appointed. This was proposed by Spencer Buchan and seconded by Gavin Currie.

The following candidates were also successful in being elected for first terms; Dan Smith, Audrey Sheal, Sarah D. Stuart, Stuart McPhee, Murray Whittaker, Jim Reid, Ian Phillips, Gavin Currie and Karri Tough. These appointments were proposed by Shelley Woodhead and seconded by Derren McRae.

Sue Stephenson concluded by welcoming returning and new members of the Board and Policy Council.

5. Business Review & Future Priorities

Russell Borthwick, Chief Executive provided an overview of role of the Chamber in the R's of economic recovery and member support since March 2020 following the Covid-19 outbreak and shared a short video presentation of our work.

The presentation can be viewed as part of the overall AGM proceedings here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Ktce17xcgl6B0r_CJRRSs3oIsQbFsQdaf1Dz2QimuCpNWQL9au6B07KTD0GhBj.i3R_zW0JvCyAx4Sb

6. Q&A

Delegates were then given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on what they had heard.

Gavin Currie - what do you consider are the key priorities for the Chamber and the region?

Russell responded that the Chamber needs to be prepared to remodel its MO and financial model to reflect current and future trends without losing the core elements of our offer. With regard to the region, he added that 'Team Aberdeen' needs to work together more and better than ever to deliver the objectives outlined in the Regional Economic Strategy.

Spencer Buchan- how do members best utilise Chamber services?

Russell replied that this is challenging as the Chamber offers a wide 'menu' of services and works with each member differently, providing bespoke services to suit specific business challenges. Our new membership contract and regular maximise your

membership sessions highlight that being a member is a two way arrangement. 'Don't just join, join in'.

However we are continually looking to improve our offer and enhance communication to ensure engagement and widen our touchpoints to all teams within member organisations.

George Yule - commented that the business community needs to rally round and support the Chamber and improve engagement with it. The Chamber's strength lies in its lobbying voice and businesses need to understand the value of this to them. Members also need to step up and take advantage of all the support the Chamber has to offer.

Russell responded by saying he hoped that the work the Chamber does, specifically during COVID, has been recognised and for the business community to take this into account when considering renewing membership or joining the network. He asked that all members act as ambassadors to pass the word on about the work we do to enable us to remain viable going forward.

Russell concluded the session by thanking everyone for their contribution.

7. President's closing remarks

The President thanked Russell for his summary of Chamber activities, commenting it was a good summary of where the Chamber is today and its future plans and prospects. She concurred with George Yule's comments underlining the work the Chamber team does for its members and the region, and that support should be given accordingly to provide the stability and strength to carry on our work.

She concluded by thanking Ledingham Chalmers for sponsoring the event and announced that the 166th AGM will be held on 15 June 2021.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 5.20pm.

Signed:

Date: 9.9.20



Colette Backwell, President