

Minutes of the 166th Annual General Meeting of Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC) held on Wednesday, 15 June at AGCC, The Hub, Aberdeen Energy Park, Exploration Drive, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8GX by Zoom.

Present: 28 attendees from 25 member companies plus:

Panel: Colette Backwell, Outgoing President
Bob Keiller, Incoming President
Russell Borthwick, Chief Executive, AGCC
Sue Stephenson, Finance and Business Services Director, AGCC

1. Welcome and Introduction

The President welcomed everyone to the 166th Chamber Annual General Meeting albeit remotely.

2. Approval of Minutes of the 165th AGM of AGCC, held on 2 September 2020

The President sought approval of the minutes from last year's AGM. This was proposed by Deborah O'Neil and seconded by Graeme Ross.

3. Directors' Report and Financial Statements for 2020

The President thanked Fiona Morgan and her team at MHA Henderson Loggie for a robust remote process resulting in a clean audit.

Commenting that last year saw many challenges which impacted significantly on our core income streams, the President reported a small operating loss. Fortunately, our investments performed well, resulting in a small overall surplus after tax.

The President sought approval for the annual report and accounts. This was proposed by Steve Nicol and seconded by George Thom.

4. The Board

The President announced that Amanda McCulloch, Chris Bain, Mike Brown and Spencer Buchan are stepping down from the Board. We would like to thank them for their commitment and support to the Chamber and know they will stay in touch and remain strong advocates for the work we do.

Future board recruitment plans were to be picked up later in the meeting.

Colette went on to say: "I can't believe that I'm already at the end of my term as President. When I was elected 2 years ago, I was excited by the prospect of being more closely involved in the work of the Chamber, with the opportunity to input into a number of key projects. Instead, three quarters of my term of office has been dominated by a global virus pandemic, which presented so many challenges to the Chamber, to all of us as individuals and to the business community.

We all know and appreciate those challenges – loss of income; getting to grips with furlough and other support schemes; lockdowns; the incessant rounds of restrictions and easing of restrictions; and all of these alongside the risk of contracting and spreading a deadly virus.

But what I have learned more than anything, as President of this fantastic Chamber, is that we should never underestimate our own ability and resilience, nor the resilience, commitment and ability to adapt and respond of the people who work with us.

As every challenge emerged, sometimes daily, it was inspiring to see how the Chamber team responded, morphing and adapting to new ways of engaging with and supporting our members. Collectively, you never missed a beat, leading our local business community through the current crisis, lobbying on our behalf and ensuring that, through the Chamber and its networks, we had access to the best possible information and advice.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Russell for his strong leadership and to the rest of the team for their incredible contribution to the Chamber, the business community and to the region.

I leave my term of office with a great sense of pride in what has been achieved under the most challenging of circumstances. In the meantime, I am looking forward to continuing to support the Chamber and the new President in any way I can as Immediate Past President as we push ahead with recovery from the pandemic.

My last duties as President are to advise that the unanimous choice of the Board to succeed me is Bob Keiller, who needs no introduction to any of you”.

The President sought approval for the appointment of the president
This was proposed by Amanda McCulloch and seconded by Graham Hudson

The Board recommended the appointment of two new Vice Presidents – Jill Webster and Steve Nicol.

The President sought approval for these appointments.
This was proposed by Pádraig McCloskey and seconded by Karen Ross

Colette handed over the reins to the new President and Board Chair, Bob who thanked Colette for her contribution as President and service to the Chamber over the years. He went on say what an honour it is be President and to highlight his ambitions to build on the success of the Chamber, to help it become more contemporary, including a governance review as our articles are currently more plc than SME. The review will cover both the Board and Policy Council. Dependent on the significance and scale of the proposed changes these will be brought to the 2022 AGM for approval or to an EGM in the interim.

5. Policy Council Update

Bob introduced Sue, who reminded delegates the Policy Council is in place to ensure that the Chamber team has its finger on the pulse on the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing our membership and the wider North-east business community.

We have provision for up to 30 members of the Council chosen via an open process giving our members the opportunity to have their input ensuring it is reflective of the diverse sectoral and geographical make up of our region. However, if there are the same number of applicants as there are vacancies, a ballot isn't required and that was the case this year.

Although the Chamber is a private sector business support and economic development agency, it is important that we have strong connections with the key public sector bodies in the region. That is why we also have 3 statutory positions not subject to the three year re-election process.

Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and NESTRANS who put forward senior representatives to ensure discussions and decision-making is fully joined up.

David Millar and Jamie Wishart are standing down and were thanked for their contributions to the Chamber.

John Michie, Craig Stevenson, Jennifer Stanning, Steven Alexander, Donella Beaton and Graeme Ross were reappointed.

Sue sought approval for these reappointments
This was proposed by Bob Keiller and seconded by Sasha Jaypalan

David Phillips and Andrew Askew Blain are new appointments

Sue sought approval for the new appointments to the Policy council
This was proposed by Dan Smith and seconded by Mike Innes

Sue concluded by welcoming returning and new members to the Policy Council.

6. 2021 Key Projects and areas of focus

Russell, Chief Executive provided an overview of our 2021 key projects, economic recovery priorities, policy campaigns and expectations of the next Scottish Government

The slides can be viewed as part of the overall AGM presentation via this [link](#)

7. Q&A

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

No questions raised


8. Close

Russell closed the AGM by thanking everyone for attending and announced that the 167th AGM will be held on 14 June 2022.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 4.45pm.

Signed:

Date: 16 June 2021



Bob Keiller
President