



**The Worthing Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd
83rd Annual General Meeting
held on Zoom Worthing on Wednesday 19th May 2021**

Present:

Tina	Tilley		Simon	Pilbeam	A & F Pilbeam Construction Ltd
Tony	Hedger	A & T Business Associates Limited	Chris	Sewell	ActiveIT
Andrew	Willems	Adur & Worthing Councils	Martin	Randall	Adur and Worthing Councils
Liz	Miles	Aldingbourne Trust Work Aid	Alastair	Vickers	ANV
Andrew	Dalglish	Ayres Bright Vickers	Patt	Fallon	Bald designs ltd
Kate	Hallin	Bennett Griffin LLP	Ian	Macara	Bennett Griffin Solicitors
Tony	Franks	BPC Advisory LLP	Robin	Evans	Carpenter Box
Dave	Bone	Conxdigital Ltd	Colin	Cooper	Cooper Creative Design
Theresa	Cooper	cooperativeHR Ltd	Peter	Webb	Electronic Temperature Instruments
Emma	Waterer	Expert Virtual Assistant Services Ltd	Jacqui	Moorhouse	Facilitator and Trainer
Helen	Vane	GoGecko	Sally	Neil-Smith	Heaton House
Tim	Loughton	House of Commons	Liana	Naylor	Inside Magazines
Chay	Took	Kreston Reeves	Kira	McKinney	MHA Carpenter Box
Martin	Braddy	MLB Associates	Paul	Mason	Nordell Ltd
Carl	Goult	Oakwood Financial Planning	Rebecca	Hope	Our Hope Hive
Paul	Hopwood	Paul Hopwood Consulting Limited	James	Thorpe	Petarto
Kathie	Crane	Prosperon Networks Ltd	Andrew	Swayne	Ricardo
Kayla	Shepherd	Safety Mode Ltd	Keith	Gallis	Seagull Travel
Kelly	O'Haire	Seaside Creative Ltd	Martin	Bloomfield	Seaside Creative Ltd
Rachael	Dines	Shake It Up Creative	Paul	Stanford	Stanford Legal Services
Anne	Feldberg	Teach All About IT	Sheryl	Tipton	Tipton Marketing
Jonathan	Nulty	Vice Puddings Ltd	Vicki	Etherington	Vicki Luisa
Ozlem	Demirkol	Vitaelux Ltd	Peter	Bennett	Past President Worthing & Adur Chamber
NOEL	ATKINS	Worthing Borough Council	Naomi	Wildey	Worthing Community Chest

Apologies were received from the following:

Denyse	Whillier	Built To Succeed	Debbie	Ross	Chichester College
Margaret	Bamford	Deputy Lieutenant	Claire	Thompson	DeScribe Language Services Ltd
Martin	Osment	Freedom Powerchairs Mobility Charity	Sandra	Crathern	Health Coach - Innvision
Susan	Beeby	HR Dept	Paul	Trew	Gear Up for Success
Derrick	Walker	LSCC CARE	Kate	Honey	Mint Design Studio
Phil	Bristow	Nsure	Joanna	Hunter	Piglets Pantry
Duncan	Anderson	South Downs Leisure	Beki	Tonks	The Workforce Facilitator
Mo	Kanjilal	Watch This Sp_ce	Clive	Spring	yohoo creative

1. Apologies

Chay Took mentioned that there were apologies and that they should be noted.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 82nd Annual General Meeting held on 21st October 2020, which had been circulated to all attendees, were approved. There were no matters arising.

Minutes approved

Proposed by: Tony Hedger

Seconded by: Jonathan Nulty

3. President's Report

Welcome to the 2021 AGM of the Worthing and Adur Chamber of Commerce and my 2nd President's report. Once again, we are unfortunately not in person but there are imminent plans to return to some face-to-face events very soon. Nevertheless, we have with us here today over 70 people once again and welcome to you all.

It is only 6 months since the last AGM and I watched that one back this week. I probably learned more how not to do things from watching it, and that I say the word "erm" a lot, but the past 6 months has shown once again there is plenty to challenge us.

Since that time it is fair to say life has not gone as planned once again, but that has served us well in many respects. Some of our change is permanent for sure and we have made other improvements. Through the Executive we now have far clearer documented goals and action plans that are reviewed at each meeting.

We have also started to strengthen the relationship between the Executive and our team of Ambassadors, and I would like to thank them all for their part in this. Ambassadors together with other members also make up some of our subgroups too, for example in membership. Through everyone I know we have a very enthusiastic team to call upon to help take the Chamber forward.

We also recently undertook a member survey and had some focus groups to better understand what you, our members, want from your membership of the Chamber. Perhaps in the past we may have assumed more than we should and these meetings have been very insightful and will influence the direction we take. Thank you to the members who have taken part and given honest and considered views.

My biggest thanks, given on behalf of all of us, go to the team in the office. To Tracie and Lauren who have not shirked a challenge throughout and will take on new opportunities with positivity and expertise building strong relationships with our key partners, ones we've enjoyed for a long time, such as the Council but also delivering more with our LEP, Coast 2 Capital, and working closer with Sussex Chamber of Commerce to whom we are now affiliated and therefore also with Chambers of Commerce across the country.

There is of course another member of the team – Tina, our CEO. As many of you know Tina has been on furlough for over a year now and that is an anniversary none of us expected to reach, indeed one we never knew existed! Her influence though and her counsel has continued, albeit in the background, over the past year and I am grateful for that. We do miss Tina, who I am pleased to say is with us today.

It was always on the cards that during my term as President that Tina would retire and I am sorry to announce that she has decided that now is the time to do that. I am further and especially sorry that it has happened now in these unprecedented circumstances. I cannot stress highly enough how important Tina's contribution has been to the Chamber and I would like to pay tribute to that today.

I first came across Tina when I sometimes went to BNI, another networking group. I was very new to networking then and didn't have a lot to say but as we know, Tina is very good at conversation, and also at spotting those who may not be so comfortable, making sure they are included. Something I am sure a lot of you can relate to. At that time Tina had her business, Connect 2, selling branded stationery. She may have been the smallest lady in the room but she had the biggest van!

The Chamber, as I understand it, was going through a bit of sticky patch you could say, and the President of the time Peter Bennett who was also at BNI, must have seen something in Tina and 15 years ago she joined in her role. Not sure what she was getting into she nevertheless threw herself into it with the energy and guile that no doubt had been spotted by Peter.

I'm pretty sure few people knew what the role was then or what to do but Tina picked up the wheel and has steered the ship ever since. She has built relationships, based on her commitment and very clear passion for the local area. The reputation of the Chamber today is very much built on Tina and that so many people are here today is testament to the work she has done. Further testament is the team that continues, and I know she is proud of what she has achieved, as she certainly should be.

It is though fair to say that this is not how any of us wanted Tina's final year to be. We want to celebrate her contribution and very much hope to be able to do so in person not only at the Better Business Show in September but also at another event towards the end of the year.

From me personally Tina, thank you for your support, for standing out to me at that first BNI meeting and being a friendly face ever since - someone I have enjoyed working with. I know you have found this last year difficult, it has gone against many of your natural instincts, it's even changed the colour of your hair (you're probably not alone in that!) but I wish you a very well-deserved retirement with Ian, the girls and the grandchildren and know you won't be far away!

The slides that follow would not have been possible without Tina's efforts over those years and are a legacy she should be proud of in what the Chamber has become today.

With the Chamber you can stay connected, we had 45 events in the year since last May and over 1,000 attendees. Not bad in this past year. We really do look forward to face-to-face events once more, starting next month. The picture here is of course of the Better Business Show which returns in September in a new venue, and we are very busy planning that right now.

Our training is greatly valued by you, our members. This year has been difficult as so much training is better face to face. Nevertheless 39 events and over 250 joining those sessions. We have plans for more and remember this too is an opportunity for many members to showcase their own expertise.

You are represented and these groups have been a valuable source of support for many members. We have also sought your own experiences and ideas to feed back and influence the direction on a local basis and further afield.

Be informed through our Connect magazine. This has been hugely successful in its electronic form and is getting bigger each time in terms of content and interest. Remember this can be a platform for your own business too – we know you are interested in learning from each other, and I am sure this next year will give plenty of us opportunity to shout about ourselves and share. Doing business locally is going to become more important to more businesses as environmental and community focussed purpose can be demonstrated to gain advantage.

We want to help you develop which in turn can develop your business. Alongside our training the Peer Mentoring gives a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experience in a safe and trusted environment facilitated by experts. This has been shown to breed genuine friendships too and now that face to face returns, we already have some groups ready to go and want to have more. Do take the opportunity to find out more, many of those who have taken part will be happy to share what they have taken from it.

And of course you can promote yourself. We've already touched upon some of these opportunities but if you think you've got something that will appeal to other members then let us know, through Tracie, Lauren or the Ambassadors. If you don't ask..

Through these we want you to feel supported. Owning a business can be lonely, no matter how many people you have around you, but as it says at the bottom of every slide, Together business is stronger. This year especially we have signposted a lot of businesses to support from the Council but also working with Coast 2 Capital in the post-Brexit trading complexities are just two examples. Being a member, you really are not alone and indeed the benefits can help your staff as well and give them access to benefits you may not be able to offer yourself.

So, the past year has been a challenge for us all but we want to be able to show that being part of the Chamber is good for you and your business and that together we can be a great place to do business. We look forward to more opportunities over the next 12 months and for you all to be part of that.

4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts were made available for everyone to view.

It has been a difficult year, the members have supported the Chamber and the membership subscriptions are higher than in 2019. The income has been helped by the Better Business Show which was held just before the first lockdown. Revenue has been lost through Chamber Connect magazine and the Summit not going ahead. Peer Mentoring and the WiseUP2 programme have produced income inline with previous years. It's been a challenging year which we have come through and with the help of grants the Chamber has made a small profit,

No questions on the accounts were received.

Pass a resolution to approve the accounts

Proposed by Kelly O'Haire

Seconded by Kathie Crane

Thanks were given to Tony Hedger and Alastair Vickers for the work on the accounts since the last AGM

The accounts were accepted en masse.

Ayres Bright Vickers were appointed as auditors having been

Proposed by Tony Hedger

Seconded by Emma Waterer

The proposal was accepted en masse.

Thanks were given to Andrew Dalglish & his team

5. Election of Officers

To consider and pass resolutions for the election of Executive Members duly nominated and seconded.

Executive Members re-standing for Election after their 3 year term:

Anne Feldberg, Simon Pilbeam

Executive Members within their 3 year term

Chay Took, Tony Hedger, Peter Webb, Alastair Vickers, Jonathan Nulty, Keith Gallis, Paul Trew, Debbie Ross, Kate Honey

3 new nominations to the Executive Committee

Theresa Cooper, Kate Hallin, Sheryl Tipton

Proposed by Andrew Swayne

Seconded by Tony Hedger

The proposal was accepted en masse.

Elected Executive Committee:

Chay Took	Alastair Vickers	Tony Hedger	Peter Webb	Simon Pilbeam
Keith Gallis	Jonathan Nulty	Anne Feldberg	Paul Trew	Debbie Ross
Kate Honey	Theresa Cooper	Kate Hallin	Sheryl Tipton	

Thanks given to Kathie Crane who has stood down after serving for 3 years,

6. To consider any other resolutions proposed (nominated and seconded)

Resolutions must be sent to the company at least 14 days prior to the date of the AGM.

None received

7. Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 6.30pm