

Minutes of Meeting

DATE: 25th September 2019

RE: 116th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT ORIGINS.



SHREWSBURY
BUSINESS CHAMBER

Item	Description	Action
	<p>PRESENT: Peter Bettis (President), Val Edwards, (Chairman), Brian Benson; Jenny Osborne, Martyn Rowlands, Charles Howell. Katy Jones, Shirley Davies, Rosie Beswick, David Lovatt, Donna Lucas, Tim Drew, Kate Gittins, Jan Hordley, Stephen Betts, Andrew Shenton, and (Speaker), Dr Josh Dixey</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Kevin Lockwood, Tony Bywater.</p>	
1.	<p><u>Minutes of 116th Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the previous AGM were read and agreed to be a true record. Proposed by Martyn Rowlands and seconded by Peter Bettis.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The only matters arising were Brexit, NWRR and Business Rates..</p>	
3.	<p><u>Chairman's Report</u></p> <p>So what have Shrewsbury Business Chamber been up to over the last 12 months. It's been a busy year as ever and possibly more challenging than usual. .</p> <p>Early in the year we had a serious problem with our website hosting. Due to changes following on from GDPR (last years big issue) we suddenly found the website no longer worked and getting this sorted proved to be a nightmare.</p> <p>The hosting was not properly resolved although we had managed to get some of it up and working again when in May we faced a major challenge. Unfortunately after many years of running our website, social media and editing our magazine Karen Burgoyne decided she needed to concentrate on her own business and therefore had decided to retire from this. So first my thanks to her for all her hard work in the past and our good wished for the success of her driving school.</p> <p>At this point the Executive faced the task of finding new ways of managing these aspects of the Chamber. Katy Jones from P C Net Solutions and Jenny Osbourne from Hens halls assisted by Martyn Rowlands from Pipekit and Brian Benson of Crown Wealth Management swung into action. They were amazing and kept everything running whilst we looked for a more permanent solution and my grateful thanks to all of them. Without you I think the Chamber would have ground to a standstill.</p> <p>First priority was to get events on the website and get Mailchimp and Eventbrite working for us. None of these things are as simple as you would hope but they did it and in just a few days we were operational. I want to particularly mention the work Jenny did on the membership database which took hours of manually reformatting and re-entering names and addresses.</p>	

They then looked in more depth at the website and decided that using the existing format was not going to be suitable going forward. So they approached Yarrington, long-time members and well known locally for producing excellent websites. Shirley Davis could not have been more helpful or more professional and in very short time a brand-new website was produced, populated and went live. Thank you Shirley and Josh for all your help and again to Katy and Jenny for masterminding the operation

The next challenge was the magazine plus PR and social media. We could not have been more fortunate. Max Ball of Salop Leisure offered to take on the role of editor and produced his first issue in the Summer. I am sure you will all agreed he did a fantastic job. He is also going to manage our twitter, Facebook and other social media accounts assisted by members of the Executive who are more technologically able (and of course younger) than me. So thank you Jenny, Katy and Martyn for doing this going forward.

Despite our IT problems the monthly members meetings carried on as ever. The Chamber year starts with the AGM and this time in 2018 we had Glynn Jones from the Bank of England to explain how the country's economy works. I think it's fair to say he's had a busy year since then.

In October we heard about Shrewsbury Town FC's initiatives in the community and in November our annual meeting with the leaders of Shropshire Council. We had Christmas Dinner at Origins and since then we have had an excellent presentations on policing and crime prevention, recruitment, training and education and running Festivals by Beth Heath,

As in most years we also had outings. A very interesting and informative tour of Veolia in January , then a visit to the Weeping Cross Nurseries to see the preparations for Britain in Bloom hosted by Helen Ball and STC. I can truly say I have never seen so many baby geraniums!!

I think it's fair to say that the trip to Hencote Winery was one of the most popular and praised of the year. Knowing our members I am not sure why!!! I was on holiday so missed all the fun. I think I will be pushing for a return visit to see what it was all about.

August was breakfast at the Flower Show and a trip down memory lane wit Margaret Thrower. A slightly changed format with a buffet style breakfast but beautiful food. Homemade jams and marmalades! I know members were disappointed in the increase in cost of this event but we are very much in the hands of the Flower Show Committee and the caterers and despite hard bargaining the costs have gone up over the years. Nevertheless we still think its excellent value and a good event for members to bring their customers to.

Other activities have included lobbying the council particularly on transport, infrastructure and planning matters. We were heavily involved with the issues surrounding car parking. We have had members on the Big Town Plan Committee and pushed hard for the economy of the town to be at the centre of their thinking.

We have quarterly meetings with our MP to lobby him and impress on him the views of business. There is of course ran the annual Christmas Window Competition and we are actively liaising with the Business Improvement District and other business organisations in the town centre.

I think all this is a sign of the excellent health of the Chamber and I am looking forward to a new year with increased enthusiasm.

I also want to say a few thank you's.

Thank you to Val Povall our untiring Secretary for all your hard work again this year and to our President Peter Bettis who is the lynchpin of the Chamber and puts in hours and hours of work.

We have an amazing executive Committee who drive the organisation. We try to make the Exec as diverse as possible so that we have input and expertise in all areas

First a few farewells. Karen Burgoyne I have already mentioned but thanks again Karen. Brian Benson of Crown Wealth Management has stood down due to work commitments and he will be sorely missed. A big thank you to him for the work he did on GDPR. Rob Humphreys of Holyoak Southgate and Parker our long serving treasurer who now has a very young family and felt he could no longer give us the commitment he wanted. However his firm have kindly agreed to continue to assist with our accounts and thank you to them. It is much appreciated. Not least by Clwyd Evans of Barclays Bank who has taken on the not inconsiderable task of treasurer and brings us insight into the economy and finance generally. So welcome to the Executive Clwyd. Katy Jones of P C Net Solutions joined us in the year and I am not sure how we ever managed without her as she is a technological whiz kid. Emma Chapman and Matt Potts have taken over as our liaison with Shropshire Council and welcome to them. Our newest member is Shirley Davies of Yarrington who is also going to help with our understanding of technology. Thank you all for volunteering.

Then we have the continuing members. Peter of course but also Kevin Lockwood of Shrewsbury Shopping Centres (Vice Chairman) who advises on retail and liaises with the BID where he is Vice Chairman.

Martyn Rowlands Managing Director of Pipekit who brings us knowledge of the building and construction industry and masterminds events. Charles Howell a land agent with Pooks who looks at planning, the fortunes of the property market and current issues

Tony Bywater of Salop Leisure who is our expert on the tourist industry and has great insight into the business community in Shropshire generally through his membership of the LEP and Business Board

Jenny Osbourne of Henshalls an insurance expert who has been invaluable with her ideas to promote the Chamber and with the changeover to the new website and social media. Andrew Evans partner with Lanyon Bowdler solicitors who gives us insight into the legal and other professional industries and helps with any legal issues we have. Helen Ball Clerk of Shrewsbury Town Council who has her finger on the pulse of Shrewsbury and current issues

And last but not least Donna Lucas of Shrewsbury Colleges who gives us invaluable insight into education and training which I think we all agree is vital to the future of the economy of the Town

Our motto is **support, promote attract**. I promise we will try our hardest to be member focused, diverse, vibrant and active. A strong voice for you and your business needs. That's our aim and we do hope that we will be seeing you all throughout the next year

4. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman then presented the accounts in the absence of the Treasurer, Clwyd Evans which he forwarded as he was unable to attend.

The accounts report a net loss for the year.

5. Adoption of Accounts

The Accounts were adopted proposed by Jan Hordley and seconded by Max Ball. All in favour. The Treasurer will sign off the accounts at the next Exec Meeting.

6. Election of Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office Held</u>	
Peter Bettis	President	
Val Edwards	Chairman	
Kevin Lockwood	Vice Chairman	
Clwyd Evans	Treasurer	
Charles Howell	Committee	
Engineering Vacancy	Committee	
Tony Bywater	Committee	
Martin Rowlands	Committee	
Andrew Evans	Committee	
Jenny Osborne	Committee	
Vacancy	Committee	
Shirley Davies	Committee	
Donna Lucas	Committee	
Katy Jones	Committee	

Proposed Co-opted Members

Helen Ball	Co-opted Member	
Max Ball	Co-opted Member	
Emma Chapman	Co-opted Member	
Val Povall	Secretary	Appointment confirmed

The Executive Committee were elected en-block, no objections being raised by the members with the exception of Richard Homden who has not been able to attend owing to pressure of work. The Chairman to write and thank him. The Secretary was confirmed as remaining in her post proposed by Peter Bettis and seconded by Martyn Rowlands.

7. Any other Business

The President said that we are looking for more new members and also an Engineering Sector Rep for the Exec Committee.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed.

The Chairman introduced the Speaker Dr Josh Dixey.

Signed
(Chairman)

Dated: