



**Guernsey Chamber of Commerce
Annual General Meeting Agenda
24th June 2021, 4:30pm at
Guernsey Chamber of Commerce, Business Development Centre, Markets Inner Street, St Peter Port,
GY11HE**

Agenda Items

1. Chairperson Elaine Gray, Guernsey Chamber of Commerce President
2. Apologies for absence and quorum & 2020 Minutes sign off

Apologies: Jane St.Pier, Clare Carre, Barrie Baxter, Graham Rabey, Rupert Dorey, Barry Cash, Susie Crowder, Mrs Palmer, Phillip Morgan, Julie-Anne Headington, Richard Hanrahan, John Bampkin, Fiona Bateson, Andrew Kewell, Christopher Storey, James Ede-Golightly, Rollo de Sausmarez, Jennifer Strachan, Valerie Winn, Jonathan Creasey, Justin Bellinger, Mary McDermott, Steve Byrne

Present: Elaine Gray (EG), Diane de Garis (DDG), Kay Leslie (KL), Duncan Peddy (DP), David Falla (DF) Kenny McDonald (KM), Brooke Kenyon (BK), Gill Morris (GM), Steve Rousell (SR), Adrian Lewis (AL), Ken Nicolle (KN), John Gollop (JG), David Ummels (DU), Christina Bisson (CB), Anna-Lisa Detassis (ALD), Robert Le Page (RLP) Jenny Tasker (JT)

- EG confirmed quorum with an attendance of 15 and 8 proxy votes.

3. Presidents Report – EG gave the group an overview of her President’s report (full report included at the end of these minutes).

- EG explained that the general opinion from our business membership is that it is time to open the borders for the benefit of the economy. EG is pleased with the level of engagement Chamber has received from the new Deputies and was pleased with the participation at the Deputies welcome session held after the election.
- The Executive Board and Industry Heads are working on determining the project priorities. EG welcomed the memberships comments on the Government work plan and asked the group to get in touch with KL with any notes around this.
- EG touched on the Chamber External Relations piece lead by David Ummels including a reception with Art for Guernsey and Chamber with his Excellency Mr Libor Secka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United Kingdom in July.
- EG explained her two main goals to achieve in her term as Guernsey Chamber of Commerce President were to update the constitutional documents and operational management of Chamber and to make Guernsey a better place for working parents. The constitutional documents and operational management are well underway and EG has meetings lined up regarding the improvement for working parents workstream.
- EG thanked the Members for their feedback. Also thanking the Industry Heads, Executive Board and Members and the office team for their strong engagement this year.
- EG concluded her Presidents report with the promise for Chamber to continue 'Encouraging and supporting an enterprise culture'.

4. Director's Report – KL gave the group an overview of her Director's report (full report included at the end of these minutes).

- KL explained that during this strange 12 months it has been challenging for Chamber and its members. However, the membership momentum is great and we are frequently approached by individuals and businesses to join on the spot as they are already aware of the strong package Guernsey Chamber of Commerce now has to offer.
- KL explained that Chamber has held 61 events over the past year and also has hosted external events at the office.
- Chamber has taken part in 46 media interviews and articles, produced CONTACT magazine twice a year and produced 6 pages of Business Brief each month.
- KL thanked Lauren Ridgwell and Alexandra Rowe for their work as part of the office team.

Comments

JG said that during the last 18 months of difficulty during the Covid-19 pandemic there have been times when the Chamber office is down to 2 staff but he believes they need 3-4 at all times. JG praised the board for great TV and Radio interviews over the last year. JG noted that the organisation has become a far more gender equal in the last few years. JG would encourage Chamber to engage with a broader range of Civil Servants and Deputies going forward.

EG added that Chamber intends to hold further drop in Deputy events but we have received mixed feedback if that would be welcomed.

DF and EG expressed a sense of frustration as Chamber rarely receive advance notice from the States of Guernsey regarding issues, plans, announcements etc we should be aware of so we can create a workgroup, write press releases and form opinions in time. DF added that it is 'almost after the event' by the time we are able to supply an opinion. JG added that this is a good time to engage with the Deputies regarding the Government Work Plan.

5. Financial Report – DDG gave the group an overview of her Financial report (full report included at the end of these minutes).

- The board asked the group if they agree that we should continue with our free-to-member events or if we should charge for these. The room agreed that the free events are a great benefit and draw for the membership.
- DDG said that Chamber are striving for a fourth person in the office team but this has not been possible this year.
- KL explained that Alexandra Rowe has completed an audit of businesses that have never been part of Chamber. This is around 1200 businesses that have not engaged. In July/August we will do a membership drive based of Alex's work.
- GM said she would like to see some more virtual events and webinars like Chamber hosted during lockdown. EG added that we are looking to invest in more tech to make this possible.
- EG asked the meeting if they would prefer the Annual Dinner to follow a similar format to usual with a speaker being brought over to the island or If a networking event would be preferable. EG explained that the board had researched a good speaker but the fee was 25k. JT suggested a local speaker would be good as there would not be a large fee.

6. Pricing structure

- The membership rates have been considered but the Board do not propose to make any changes to the pricing structure.
- The ability to pay membership monthly has recently been introduced.
- LR gave a brief update on new members and explained the recently added 'Start up' category has gained interest with 6 new members.

7. Resignations from the Chamber Executive Board

- I. Graham Rabey will be standing down as Treasurer after many years of service.
- II. Clare Carre will be standing down as Executive Board member after 1 year of service.
 - EG thanked Graham Rabey for his long service of many years as Guernsey Chamber of Commerce Honorary Treasurer
 - EG thanked Clare Carre for year years service on the Chamber Executive Board.

8. Elections to Chamber Executive Board

RESOLUTION: To appoint the following individuals as members of the Guernsey Chamber of Commerce Executive Board in the positions below:	
1. Jane St. Pier to be appointed as Guernsey Chamber of Commerce Honorary Treasurer for a term of 1 year. Proposed by Elaine Gray Seconded by Kay Leslie	This vote was carried unanimously
2. James Ede-Golightly to be appointed as Guernsey Chamber of Commerce Executive board member for a term of 1 year. Proposed by Kay Leslie Seconded by Elaine Gray	This vote was carried unanimously
3. Brooke Kenyon to be appointed as Guernsey Chamber of Commerce Executive board member for a term of 1 year. Proposed by Diane de Garis Seconded by Kay Leslie	This vote was carried unanimously
4. David Ummels to be appointed as Guernsey Chamber of Commerce Executive board member for a term of 1 year. Proposed by Kay Leslie Seconded by Elaine Gray	This vote was carried unanimously
5. Rupert Dorey to be appointed as Guernsey Chamber of Commerce Executive board member for a term of 1 year. Proposed by Elaine Gray Seconded by Diane de Garis	This vote was carried unanimously

(Voting will be carried out through a show of hands as per the memo & arts and through registration of proxy votes)

9. AOB

- DF said that the recent shift to less rigid Industry groups to workstreams is working very well and could be more attractive to younger generations.
- JG would like to see more third sector charities join and engage but DDG added that Chamber do have many third sector members already.
- JT requested the names of the current Industry Group heads which EG agreed to circulate soon due to some groups changing slightly.
- KL informed the group that the website project is underway to include a discussion and survey system.

The meeting was closed at 5:21pm.