

BLACK COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Minutes of the AGM

Held at Chamber board room, Wolverhampton Science Park Ltd, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV10 9TG on Tuesday 13th December 2016 at 1.30pm

Members Present:

15 people attended representing 15 member companies. (Quorum requires 15 or more members in attendance or via proxy)

In attendance:

3 Black Country Chamber employees.

4 member apologies were received.

20 member proxy voting forms were received.

The meeting was opened at 1.30pm by Adrian Wright, President of the Chamber.

1. To Receive the President's Review

Apologies were given for the unintentional error in sending out the 2015 accounts in the incorrect format. It was investigated and new processes are now in place to prevent error in the future. The President was appointed on 1st April 2016 and was acting CEO until the new CEO was appointed in October 2016. The President has been a member for 10 years and wanted to give something back to the members. The Chamber has transformed by constantly refreshing its board so it is always seen through fresh eyes. Thanks were given to board members who give their time and experience for no remuneration.

The new CEO was recruited through an open process and Corin Crane was appointed from over 30 applicants for his experience, drive and enthusiasm. The Chamber will be known as a modern Chamber and a shared business plan will detail what the Chamber wish to achieve over the coming years.

2. To receive the Chief Executive's Report

The CEO stated it was a pleasure to be on board and believes the members are the voice of the Chamber and he will be out and about talking to all to find out what businesses want. Members will have the chance to contribute into longer, high profile campaigns that will be based on local members' needs. The first of these is already underway and is focusing on transport and logistics, with future campaigns planned on manufacturing issues, international trade and local procurement. Working together with the other West Midlands chambers is also in progress, and there will be a focus on developing strong relationships with local MPs, local authorities and other stakeholders to improve all areas.

A two-year business plan will be available on line at the start of the new financial year and in the future an annual review will be published each year to coincide with each AGM for all the members to be able to monitor progress.



There are approximately 31,000 businesses in the Black Country and the Chamber will develop a new digital platform to engage with as many as possible in a more direct and tailored approach. Member packages will be reviewed as we begin to focus on the value and quality of membership rather than just numbers.

A plea was made to embrace positive action and move on from old issues and for members to come and see the CEO whenever they needed to.

A member then brought up the history of the Chamber with the Walsall members and hoped the new CEO would look into various matters including the support the Walsall members had given the BCCC regarding Ward street premises and disagreements on dilapidation payments on that building and challenges to the EMCCI trust deed that in the member's opinion were groundless.

A new Chamber board member said these would be looked in to, but we must look to the future.

The CEO said these issues must be brought to a head as too much time and money had been wasted by everyone and promised to meet all interested Walsall members to discuss each point in detail and hopefully bring the matters to a close with a form of compromise.

3. To receive the report of the directors and the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016

The accounts were laid before the meeting as approved by the board of directors and will be delivered to Companies House.

4. To re-appoint BDO LLP as auditors from the conclusion of this meeting until such time as a tender process has been completed during 2017

Proposed by a member and seconded by another.

5. To elect two directors from the shortlisted candidates being; Ali Allibhai, Simon Fisher and David Roberts.

The chairman asked for the members to vote on each director and after including the proxy votes, the result was that Ali Allibhai was appointed to the board and David Roberts was re-appointed to the board.

6. To consider and if thought fit pass the following resolution as a special resolution:

“That the draft articles of association produced to the meeting and for the purposes of identification initialled by the Chairman be adopted as the articles of association of the Company in substitution for and to the exclusion of the Company’s existing articles of association.”

No vote was taken due to discussions around the clarity of the changes that had been made and a discussion around synchronising the dates of the election of the President and Vice President with the AGM rather than the financial year.

Thanks were given to all by the President and he was thanked in return by a member and the meeting finished at 2.35pm.