



**Cranleigh Chamber of Commerce**

**Annual General Meeting Tuesday 25 April 2017 at 7pm**

**Cranleigh Golf and Country Club**

### **MINUTES**

**1. Attendees**

- These are listed at the end of the paper. The meeting was quorate.

**2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting**

- The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 were adopted as a correct record of the proceedings.

Proposer: Bob Bayley

Seconder: Julie Alexanderson

**3. President's Report**

- The President started his report by remembering and recognising the support of the previous Treasurer, David Smith, who passed away in the summer of 2016.

'Cranleigh Chamber has had a second successful year under its new committee with Cranleigh businesses really supporting the reformed Chamber. Membership is now 139, a record number. It has been a year of events, a year of lobbying, a year of influencing, a year of campaigning and a year of partnering to ensure that Cranleigh remains the very best place to live, work and play. And we are being listened to! By the press, by the County Council, the Borough council and the Parish Council.

So, what has the Chamber achieved during the year?

Events

- Our networking events remain popular with 7 breakfasts, one barbecue and one evening event at Rudgwick Brewery where some hardy individuals even managed to cycle there and back. We try to bring interesting speakers to each networking event and this year we had a full variety of talks from cheese making to cyber security; from how to implement safer surgical operating conditions, to living longer and the cycling revolution that has hit Cranleigh.
- We held two Brexit debates in May and June which were extremely well attended as well as lively.
- We focussed on customer service with the Up Your Game programme of mystery shopping assessing what our businesses are doing well, what they could do better and what they can

learn from each other. Thank you to Waverley Borough Council and Alan Young at Surrey County Council for the financial sponsorship of Up Your Game

- Once again, we worked closely with the Cranleigh Arts Centre staging a second excellent Food and Music Festival on a very sunny day in late September.
- The Xmas Lights switch on in November was less sunny! Indeed, the poor weather not only put a dampener on the evening but caused an outage on the electricity supply in the High Street just when the entertainment was starting! Nevertheless, the crowds were patient and stayed to watch the Xmas lights switch on. It costs over £12,000 per annum to repair, buy replacements and erect the Xmas Lights, all of which is raised by the businesses of Cranleigh. There is no public funding at all unlike other local towns. My thanks to the Xmas lights team for all their work this year – namely Roger, Martin, Julie and Rosemary. And thanks to the volunteer members of the Chamber who got very wet helping Rosemary stop and redirect the traffic during the High Street closure.
- The second Business, Innovation and Growth (BIG) Awards were held in January thanks to sponsorship from Alan Young of Surrey County Council and local businesses. Once again, we celebrated small and large business achievements and were delighted to award the winner of the 5 Employees and Under Award to Idyllic Beauty and Spa and 5 Employees and Over Award to Atrainability. We are planning to change the timing of the BIG Awards in 2018 to avoid the Christmas period altogether.
- Cranleigh in Bloom, led by Martin Bamford, excelled itself in 2016 winning not only a Gold Award but Best Town in the South East. Cranleigh was truly exceptionally attractive in 2016 and indeed continues to be so in Spring with the field of crocuses on the common, the cleaning up of the local ponds and the vibrant displays of tulips, pansies and other spring flowers.

### Lobbying and Influencing

An important part of any Chamber of Commerce is to lobby and influence the public sector. We have really got into our stride in 2016

- We fought hard to try and retain Hewitts Industrial Estate as employment land. We wrote an economic justification paper to the Inspector and we spoke at the Appeal. However, the Appeal was lost because Waverley Council does not have a Local Plan in place. We are now desperately short of employment space.
- Many proposals have been put forward for the Downs Link unsuccessfully. Even as a leisure and commuter use the track is not really fit for purpose. We decided to ask Sustrans to carry out an assessment of the quality of surface and a recommendation of how much it would cost to improve to a standard to take bicycles, walkers and even wheelchairs. Once again local businesses put their hands in their pockets to pay for the assessment. We expect the results shortly.
- Committee Member and Vice President, Bob Bayley has campaigned tirelessly with Waverley Council to introduce a parking system that will take credit cards. This will enable shoppers and visitors to relax and spend more time in Cranleigh. It has been a battle because the council make a lot of money from fines! However, experience in other towns has demonstrated that in fact the income increases considerably once an open exit time is offered through credit card payment. Unfortunately, we could not stop Waverley from increasing the parking fees to 80p an hour. Now that the government is reducing and by 2020 withdrawing council funding altogether, Waverley is doing everything it can to find other sources of funding and car parking is a soft option for them.

- We wrote a detailed economic paper in response to Waverley's request to refresh their own economic strategy. They were both pleased and surprised by the professional content of the paper and Bob and I were invited to speak with them about it.

#### Plans for this year

- We will formally complete the incorporation of the Chamber to a limited not for profit company
- We will lobby and influence decision makers to identify more employment land.
- We will work with the local authorities to identify a council owned building to convert into a shared workspace for start-ups and small companies to grow. There will be many hundreds of new inhabitants who could work from such a centre instead of leaving the area or working from their bedrooms.
- We will work collaboratively to maintain the High Street as a vibrant destination for both locals and visitors.

None of this happens without the hard work and dedication of the Committee and, on behalf of the membership, I must thank them for their phenomenal input.

Finally, this is my third and last year of Presidency. During the year, we will be seeking a new President and if anyone would like to discuss that with me or other members of the committee, we would welcome that. We also have a few vacancies on the Committee and welcome new members to it.

#### **4. Resolution One**

- The Treasurer provided a verbal update on the Company Incorporation of Cranleigh Chamber of Commerce Ltd. There has been a slight delay because the British Chambers of Commerce who need to approve our new Mem and Arts before incorporation.
- It was proposed and agreed that all members of the Chamber at the time of incorporation will be invited to become members of the new company, once incorporated. The company will be a company limited by guarantee and having no share capital. Their liability will be restricted to a subscription of £1 each in the event of failure of the company.

Proposer: Gaynor Wilson    Secunder: Mike Parsons

A unanimous vote in the form of a show of hands of members was also taken.

#### **5. Resolution Two**

- It was proposed and agreed to adopt a change in Membership fees paid by retired Members. The current membership fee for retired members is free. It is proposed that from May 1<sup>st</sup> that retired new members should pay an annual fee of £20. Existing retired memberships will remain free until their annual subscription expires. There are no further changes to Membership fees.

Proposer: Roger Coupe    Secunder: Kate Elliott

A unanimous vote in the form of a show of hands of members was also taken.

**6. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts**

- The Treasurer's Report was received, the Annual Accounts approved and the Treasurer reappointed with a unanimous show of hands

Proposer: Paul Arding Seconder: Nick Bamford

**7. Election of Officers**

- The current President, Richard Graham and the current Vice President, Bob Bayley, were re-elected with a unanimous show of hands.

Proposer: Roger Coupe Seconder: Andrea Bamford

**8. Election of Committee**

- David Smith, Roger Coupe, Martin Bamford, Guy Sansom, John Taylor, Julie Alexanderson, and Rosemary French were re-elected and Christine Martin was elected, with a show of hands.
- Roger Coupe, Martin Bamford, Guy Sansom, Julie Alexanderson, Christine Martin and Rosemary French were re-elected and Colin Barber and Kate Elliott, whose nominations were received and accepted by the committee during the year were elected with a unanimous show of hands.

Proposer: Mel Booth Seconder: Klara Akerstrom

**9. Any other business**

- There was no further business
- The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT (27):**

Julie Alexandersen	Roger Coupe	David Counsell
Hans Alexanderson	Rosemary French	Euan Davidson
Paul Arding	Richard Graham	Kate Elliott
Martin Bamford	Daniel Jenking	Richard Elliott
Bob Bayley	Bonnie Lai	Marsha Hall
Mel Booth	Klara Akerstrom	Isabel Hodgson
Andrea Bamford	Sandra Angus	Nicola Light
Nick Bamford	Gaynor Wilson	Mr and Mrs Mike
Norman Simmonds	Mike Wilson	Parsons

**End**