

SHROPSHIRE CHAMBER LIMITED
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
COMBINED WITH SHROPSHIRE CHAMBER MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH
held at 12:30 p.m. ON FRIDAY, 6th DECEMBER 2019
at THE ORIGINS, SHREWSBURY

Present:

It was confirmed that a total of 65 attendees

Shropshire Chamber Directors present:

Mandy Thorn MBE (President)

Richard Sheehan (Chief Executive)

Chris Greenough (Vice President)

Ian Davies (Director)

Simon MacVicker (Director)

Ann Fisher (Company Secretary)

Keith Winter (Director)

▪ **President's Introduction:**

The President, Mandy Thorn, formally welcomed everyone to the AGM, and thanked all for their support in the Chamber's 57th year and emphasised the support that the Chamber delivers to the Shropshire Business community.

Despite the uncertainty in the economy and particularly with Brexit the Chamber team continues to deliver for all of our businesses.

The President paid tribute to Past President Peter Guy who did so much for the Chamber and who leaves "big shoes" to fill.

The President thanked all of the board members who give so freely of their time to support the Chamber and in particular she thanked Richard Sheehan and all of the team at the Chamber for all they do to support members and the wider Shropshire business community.

▪ **CEO Update:**

Richard Sheehan gave an overview of the past 12 months: Chamber House is now open in Shrewsbury, this has been a big investment and is a positive for our members business community.

The DIT funded International Trade Advisors have supported Shropshire Businesses through 2019 to the value of over £100m worth of business won across the globe helping to grow the Shropshire economy.

The newly strengthened International Trade Documentation team have produced over 2900 sets of compliant documents helping move £50m worth of Shropshire goods and services across the world. This team is now at three personnel which is a great support.

The membership model continues to be well received with over 39% of our training and events accessed free of charge via the membership engagement with the Chamber and its membership has shown sustainable growth. 781 members have used their allocation.

The team have come together in a short timeline to deliver the BEIS project focused on a no deal Brexit, the feedback was expectational and as a result we expect more opportunity via Growth Hubs.

Our Virtual Pathway2Careers platform is now fully functioning. We are developing focus groups to aid further development. We received a small amount of funding and through our relationships have delivered something special to assist young people to make informed choices and promote sectors seen less attractive.

We have developed and launched the 1835 Group. This group already has 29 members and last night had its first successful event. This membership will connect our young people in business giving a sense of belonging and opportunity, retaining talent in Shropshire and will be looking at environment and economic strategies.

The Corporate Membership is designed to provide senior team development and is now in pilot stage, we are looking forward to rolling this out 2020 will bring opportunities.

The 2019 Business awards were one of the best we've had, 2020 is the 20th anniversary and will be our biggest ever and will ultimately be a great time to come together.

Richard closed his update by thanking all for the support.

- **Minutes of 2018 AGM held on 7th December 2018:**

The President asked for approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 7th December 2018. This was proposed by Paul Kalinauckas of BCRS Business Loans Limited and seconded by Tony Granger SW Asset Protection Limited. The Minutes were approved.

- **Receive and Adopt Directors' Report and Audited Statement of Accounts:**

Keith Winter, Finance Director of the Chamber, gave a brief overview of the accounts of the Chamber for the year ended 31st March 2019

He referred members to page 8 of the accounts highlighting the operating loss of £32,569 with investment income of £24,390 and a fixed asset invest gain of £49,011.

Interest received of £249 giving a surplus of £26,977.

Credit to be given to Close Brothers who have built the portfolio with a starting balance of £650,000 and now stands at £1.4m.

Keith Winter refers members to page 9, reporting a strong balance sheet position of £2,575,195.

- **Appointment of Auditors and Fixing Remuneration:**

The re-appointment of Whittingham Riddell as Auditors for the Chamber and the Board's authority to fix the remuneration was proposed by Keith Winter and seconded by Ian Davies. Agreed by all.

▪ **Appointment of Directors:**

The President proposed the appointment of three new Board directors who had been recruited following an open recruitment call. She proposed to the meeting the appointment of Piran Littleton of Jesmonite, Maisy Owen of MO Management Consultancy Ltd and Chris Pallett of Bespoke Computing.

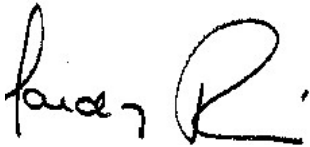
All in favour no against.

The two Directors retiring by rotation were Simon MacVicker and Ian Davies, both have expressed their willingness to stand again. The President asked for a proposer and seconder for their re-election to the Board. Proposed by Keith Winter and agreed by all.

6. Any Other Business:

The president thanked Catherine Armstrong and her team of Shrewsbury Colleges Group, for hosting today's event.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 13.15pm



Approved:

 MANDY THORN MBE DL - PRESIDENT

Date: 06.11.2020