

Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce AGM

 Wednesday 7th February 2018

 Oglethorpe Room, Wilfred Noyce Centre

Apologies:

Julie Noyce (Church Street Podiatry), Jane Whittingham (St Hilary’s School), Tim Ostle (Charterhouse School)

Attendees :

Euan Davidson, Godalming Family Mediation

John and Janet Taylot, Cornmeter

Dawn & Nick Tippett, Boots Opticians

Kevin Dupree, Godalming Food Co.

Greg Holden, Templewealth

Peter Conneely, Shipley’s

Stefan Reynolds, Vantage Point

Sarah Alexander, Coaching Magnificence

Renato Rufus, Si Capital

William Edwards, Downs Solicitors

Mathew Farrant, Haines Watts

Jim Smith, Shoppers Anonymous

Alison Daniels, Hughes Waddell

Sindy Hammond, The Party Shop

Holly Parker, The Greenhouse

Kevin Gorton, Artist

Andy Jeffries, Godalming Town Clerk

Suzie Gortler, Community & Communications Officer

Phil Davies, Godalming CAB

Jane Lee-Cross, Sunrise Senior Living

Martin Davidge-Stringer ,Farnham

Andrew Miles, Grillo

John Guthry, Hart Brown

Angus Lyon, Johnson Fellowes

Adam Boshoff, Seymour’s Godalming

Patsy Bell, Calico Curtains

Mihaela Malarcsek, Tailoring and Alterations

Meeting started at 6pm

Euan welcomed everybody to the meeting

Thanked people for being part of the Chamber over the past year

**Secretary`s report from Kevin:**

Nothing formal to add to last year`s report, working on improving the website, posting on social media Enjoying having great times with management team and Chamber members, a joy to be part of a great team. Feels now is the time to be promoting the Chamber and raise our profile.

Andy Jeffries asked if there could be contact details for the various Chamber committee members put onto the Chamber website, Kevin will work on it.

Greg has new flyers to hand out for potential new members. Subscriptions to stay the same.

**Treasurer’s report by Peter:**

We are a very healthy Chamber

Account is looking good

72 paid members this year

Some of these are companies with many staff. We have ongoing expenses eg: Christmas lights, John is the contact in future for lights and commitments to the Wilfred Noyce

The food festival did not make as much as previous years due to the absence of sponsors

**President’s report by Euan:**

Has been an interesting year of transition with changes at the Chamber and Godalming Town Council, Welcome to the new Town Clerk Andy. We have reached a point where a lot of people are driving in the same direction. We have had great success with various training events held by Sarah - the next one is 7th March

The Friday lunch club has attracted good numbers. On 23rd February we are back at the Inn on the Lake Hope to have a summer event at The Stag ,We had a retailers forum at Barbaraca , a good turnout

Need more events for both sides of the Chamber ,retail & business

Festivals:

Led by the Town Council the Chamber is happy to support them at the Spring festival and Christmas festival, with Santa’s Grotto. The food festival is still the Chamber’s baby but supported by the Town Council.

This was the first year that Seymours have sponsored the fireworks that was a great success.,

Sindy to help with future festivals.

We aim to be more involved with local events.

We are involved with the Waverley Joint Chambers: Farnham, Godalming , Cranleigh and Haslemere. Meetings every quarter. The main issue used to be parking but have now moved towards working on joint projects including the Waverley Business Awards this year and a possible Business Improvement District project from next year.

The Waverley Business Awards

Each Chamber the chance to take part and win awards. Renato having meetings with joint Chambers working forward to have an awards dinner in October

There is a business meeting 20th February at 8:30am with Waverley Borough Council.

We have great links with the Town Council. Suzie is the Community and Communications officer - we thank her for all her help.

John has been working with Jim for the Compete on the Street competition. We need to promote the other areas of the Chamber. We are Godalming and District. Suzie is having meeting with Farncombe. William is the contact for Farncombe.

Alison has been working with the Dementia Alliance group. More meetings to follow.

Keen to strengthen links with other organisations in the Town to help improve the Town, for example Go Godalming.

Renato

We need to increase membership numbers – please talk to your neighbours at work.

Four ladies are stepping off the management committee. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to the Chamber: Dawn, Holly, Alison and Jane. Gifts presented.

William asked all committee members that were standing for office to stand. All existing members plus Sindy replacing Dawn. John was not present but is happy to stay on the management committee. William asked the members to raise their hand if they were in agreement to vote people in - unanimous vote.

Kevin thanked Euan for being a good president and looked forward to the next year.

That brings the AGM to a close.

Jim Smith talked about how the high street is changing. Gave lots of facts and figures. Compete on the street is a chance for business to be involved. This will happen in March/April. You can opt in to take part but places are limited.

Presentation by Alison from Farncombe Day Centre. A life line for people offering lunch and company They also have a minibus to help the community. This will be the Chamber charity of the year.

AOB:

Andy Town Clerk spoke:

Like the Chamber, the Council has had changes. We want to strengthen our links with the Chamber .

The Chamber is the only group that the council will deal with. Working with Renato on the festivals

& promoting the local businesses and the Chamber.

We will have 50 floral displays this year in the town. Plants from Van Arnam, this has taken 10 years to get to this stage - started by John.

Renato

Would like to thank Adam at Seymour’s for sponsoring fireworks. Adam pointed out that there are many opportunities for getting involved locally and sponsoring events as a business, for example the band stand, festivals etc.

Euan closed by saying we are open to ideas. Thanked everybody for attending. Thanked Kevin for wine and nibbles

Chamber Gala dinner April 25th

Venue: The Inn on The Lake

3 course meal for £25 for members

Closed at 7:15pm