

# Godalming Chamber of Commerce

## Annual General Meeting

22 February 2021, 6pm

Zoom

### Attendees:

John Taylor – Cornmeter – President  
Elizabeth Campbell – Secretary  
Matthew Pactat – Treasurer  
Peter Blackburn – Nightingale Flowers  
Tim Ostle – Charterhouse Club  
Kevin Dupree – Godalming Deli  
Stefan Reynolds – VantagePoint  
Matthew Farrant – Haines Watts  
Matthew Kilgannon – Kilgannon & Partners  
Joyce – NUB News

Andy Jeffries – GTC  
Sarah Collins - Waitrose  
Adam Boshoff – Seymours  
Alison Daniels  
John Lloyd – Blue Dot Display  
Penny Brown – Godalming Travel  
Amanda Gore – Godalming Travel  
Greg Holden – Temple Wealth  
Michael Stubbs – TC Representative  
Karl Hancock – NUB News

### Apologies:

Jenna Hopkins – Downs Solicitors  
Kate Wheeler

John opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting 2021.

The Minutes from the previous AGM held on 3 February 2020 were approved and adopted. John noted the new website took longer than expected and will be up and running in the next week. Members' adverts will be featured on the front page.

There were no matters arising.

### Treasurer's Report – Matthew Pactat

- Matt presented the Annual Accounts, which were emailed, to all members.
- 2020 started with a balance of £15,435 and ended with £13,659. Annual deficit of £1776.
- Pepperpot and Xmas lights expenses are deferred until 2022.

### President's Report – John Taylor

- John thanked the Godalming Town Council and Waverley Borough Council for their support during 2020 and COVID 19. As John suffered from the virus from March to Sept, he was unable to carry out his role as the new Chamber President. In John's absence, Tim Ostle represented the Chamber at meetings with Waverley BC.
- In 2020 the Chamber helped in the programme to mark off the pavement for social distancing.

- Andy Jeffries from GTC confirmed that the 2021 Spring Festival will not take place and the Town Show will be moved from June to September. It is the government's plan to reopen shops and gyms on 12 April and lift all restrictions on 21 June, but this is subject to change.
- The Godalming Food Festival can be moved from July to September and the Chamber will decide on this by the end of March.

### **New Constitution Adoption**

12 of 17 present voted in favour of adopting the Chamber's new Constitution which was emailed out to members in January.

### **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

13 of 17 present voted in favour of the officers and committee members.

Officers:

John Taylor - President  
 Matthew Pactat - Treasurer  
 Elizabeth Campbell – Secretary/Admin

Committee Members:

Kevin Depree  
 Jenna Hopkins  
 Matthew Kilgannon  
 Alison Daniels  
 Adam Boshoff  
 Stefan Reynolds  
 Peter Conneely  
 Tim Ostle  
 Greg Holden  
 Kate Wheeler

### **NUB News Presentation – Karl Hancock**

NUB News is a local news website for smaller towns so they can have their own community news sites. They are currently in 62 towns across the country and growing. They look forward to working with the Chamber to get local news out.

### **AOB**

- Michael Stubbs introduced himself. He is a Godalming Town Councillor for the Holloway Ward and has been in the Godalming community for 60+ years. He serves as the liaison between the Town Council and the Chamber and is happy to take the Chamber's concerns to the Town Council. He does an Annual Report to the TC on the Chamber. His next report will be done in October.

- John reported that the Chamber is speaking to Waverley to try to bring down the prices of High Street shop rents to more reasonable rates to help fill the empty sites.
- John Lloyd from Blue Dot requested the Chamber create a closed Facebook group where members can post news about their businesses. John Taylor said this is on the Chamber's agenda. He has recruited a new committee member, Kate Wheeler, who will be working on the social media side of the Chamber. Having the resources to monitor such sites is a concern.
- Tim mentioned the Chamber committee is a body of volunteers and needs new volunteers to help with the many tasks that need to be done.
- Andy Jeffries said the Town Council is not resourced for supporting the business community but he is committed to supporting the Chamber and helping local businesses.
- Kevin reported the BID initiative should restart later in the year. It was on hold during COVID.
- Lunchtime and Evening networking meetings will resume as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted.
- The Chamber would like to find a way to encourage the members of the Retailers Whats App Group to join the Chamber.
- Andy said the footfall counters are now active in the High Street. They will show what days and what times of the day are most active. They will also show attendance at festivals and events. These are being funded for one year only by The European Development Fund for the Safe Reopening of High Streets. After the first year in order to continue it will need to be funded by the Town Council. Andy will need feedback from businesses in order to get this funded.
- The next full Chamber meeting will be held in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.00pm.