

## Lichfield Chamber of Trade and Commerce

### Minutes of AGM – Tuesday 9th November 2021 – The George Hotel

Present:

Ruth Redgate (Chair)	Greg Birch
Ann Schwarzenbach	Colette Bratton
Bernadette Ratcliffe	Jayne O' Keeffe
James Paulette	Ben Hatfield
Callum Thorpe	Kathryn Matthews
Graham Shipton	Jan Leytham-Gain
Becky Edwards	Amanda Jackson
Tina Hart Prieto	Lizzie Braine
Vicky Woolston	Helen Reeves
Jono Oates	

Apologies:

Louie Clegg, Matt Clay, Gayle Edwards, Michael Mullarkey, Denise Whelan, Steve Tamplin, Krissy Lackajis, Rob Young, Donna Garratty, Rebecca Hill, Wendy Hill

1. Matters arising

President honour from 2020 – it was a difficult year but meetings were able to take place over Zoom.

No member businesses were folded due to the pandemic.

Shop Appy does not appear to have worked. Felt it was not flexible enough for what our members offer.

Many thanks to the Vice Presidents, Greg and Matt, for their support over the year.

Thanks also to all members and new members – the membership has grown over the year.

2. Treasurer report

End of year accounts not completed due to illness, but report will be done for January 2022.

By January, take account for the year membership.

Recommended membership does not increase for 2022 due to strangeness of the year.

All agreed to the above.

Review Keelys – what do they offer, what they do cover? Anything different that members can benefit from? Kitchen Shop have used the membership.

3. Christmas Fayre

No fayre in 2020 due to pandemic.

Members agreed in previous AGM to provide payment to Lizzie for her work into the planning of the market.

Nothing else to report.

4. Hanging flower baskets

Apologies from Rob. Formal committee report to be submitted.

Extended offer to those that wanted baskets at home – 8 sold. All amazing and recommended that option be put forward again.

76 baskets provided to the city centre.

1 x member charity donation.

1 x basket was stolen.

System of pre-payment worked which meant no outstanding invoices.

5. Membership report

52 members  
21 new for 2021  
2 complimentary members

6. Secretary report

Thanks to George Hotel, Eastern Eye and James from Poms. Great to have some face-to-face meetings again.

Thank you to regular members and attendees for their support.

Thanks given to Ruth for Presidency.

7. Election of committee

President – Ruth. Nominated by Jan, seconded by Greg. Honoured to serve during a 'normal' year.

Vice President – Matt and Greg nominated by Ruth to continue again.

Honorary Secretary – Vickie Woolaston. Ruth nominated.

Executive Committee – No legal guidance as to whether needed. Decisions have been made via email which has worked as decisions have been immediate rather than waiting for meetings. John Mott and Tracy Garcia to continue with one more member required.

Ben Hatfield nominated by Ruth, Lizzie volunteered also.

Treasurer – Steve happy to continue.

8. Lichfield District Council Masterplan

Invited to join the sounding board. Never been invited formally to anything such as this before.

Ruth accepted invitation but unable to attend first meeting online Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

November – Jono attending as representative on behalf of the Chamber.

Suggested that a representative should be at every meeting.

9. AOB

Ann – Advantage House. Council keen to talk to local businesses about what they are doing. Good to get the councillor on board at the Chamber to have links there.

Bernadette – Ratcliffe Education Consultancy. Guest of Jono. New to Lichfield, was in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall previously. Works with schools that are in special measures. Also working with the Birmingham City University to impact on policy and cutting-edge change.

Lizzie – Suggested city centre health check be bought back. Report on what's happening in the city, businesses coming and going etc.

Reminder of Christmas Fayre taking place Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Posters still available to advertise. Response to adverts has been very positive. Sheriff and Mayor both attending for the opening. Ken Knowles, town crier, dedication of fayre following his death last year.

Vicky – Footfall increasing slightly in the shop, but trade is down compared to previous years. Seems the same everywhere. Still not quite back to normal.

Chamber invoices sent at beginning of 2021 – text on invoice needs adding regarding re-joining fee as 3 missed it.

Jono – attended Bond premier. Great to see the branding and animations at the beginning.

Ben – On the hunt for Google reviews please, as well as some FAQ's. Please send them over. Rate raise happening first quarter 2022 but won't affect any projects currently ongoing. Competition for full company spotlight video. Will be randomly selected from one business that signs up to their newsletter. Anyone free to enter.

Ruth will start a Facebook thread for links to google reviews for everyone to add.

Ensure all reviews are engaged with. Animation video will be added to the closed FB group for all to see.

Kathryn - Claire McClear osteopath, new business, moving into central of Lichfield.

Ruth – Missed daily spotlight for Mercia food hub and the radio interview due to illness. Huge thanks to everybody for their support for the last 12 months.

Executive committee approached via email for President to hand over £150 to Sheriff and Mayor at Christmas Fayre, to donate to their charities. Agreed.

10. Next meeting

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, POMS.

Spotlight will be Sue Burford, from Sue Burford Holistic Therapies.

Nigel from Sanctuary will be the speaker– refugee related talk.

Christmas meal 5<sup>th</sup> January at The George – Jayne to send a google form for menu choices.