



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AYRSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY held Auchincruive House, Ayr on Thursday 26th September 2024 at
1.30pm**

ATTENDED

Alison Somerville, Robert Ferguson, Peter Telfer, Martin Murphy, David Christian, Brian Smith, Iain Greer, Craig Johnstone, David Wilkinson, Hiba Wilkinson, Angela Cox, Richard Longmuir, Gillian Longmuir, David Hernandez, Aimee Doole, Martin Welsh, Andrew Dickson, Christina McDonald, Lilian Jones MP, Danny Gregory, Margaret Scott

IN ATTENDANCE

Claire Baird, Joan McMurdo,

WELCOME

Alison Sommerville, President, welcomed and thanked the assembled audience for their attendance to the Annual General Meeting of The Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

AS then went on to give a brief overview of the year and thanked the Board and Claire Baird, CEO, and her team for their continued contribution to the Chamber.

1. Notice

The Notice calling the meeting had been previously circulated.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Fiona McKenzie & Iain Forbes

3. Approval of Minute of AGM held 27th September 2023

The minute of last year's AGM had previously been made available.

Proposed by: Craig Johnstone

Seconded by: David Christian

4. Approval of the Report of the Directors for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Alison Sommerville, President, asked, Claire Baird, CEO, to give an overview of the Annual Report which had previously been made available. CB went over the report starting with a review of membership which stood at 810 on 31st March. Member engagement was one of the top priorities for the year and a new way of working has been introduced: Each member has a dedicated account manager; an engagement plan is in place with additional touch points for new members and better member activity tracking. The increased engagement aims to increase member awareness of the services, benefits and events. She then spoke about the variety of services and benefits available to members; Quest continues to be valuable support to members with 244 calls made to them and 1156 documents downloaded with a value to our members of over £42,000. Members continue to use the benefits of Westfield Health and AXA. We have continued our partnership with Ayrshire Safety Group, giving members access to focused H&S forums. Policy & Lobbying has continued to be key for our members this year including topics such as Poundage for Business Rates, National Insurance increase and 5p cut in Fuel Tax. International document support has seen a slight decrease in the number of documents processed but is still a vital service. Social Media stats continue to rise, Strand PR have been engaged to give a more strategic



approach to marketing. She also spoke about the varied events organized by the Chamber; 76 events with 933 bookings. Business Week continues to be a highlight and the flyer for this year's events was available. Annual Business Awards this year have had 119 applicants from 16 categories with 62 finalists. She spoke about the work the DYW team undertake including work experience and the Innovative Schools projects. 3 Information sessions were also held across the local authorities with over 1800 young people attending and 159 employers. We continue to deliver work experience and employer engagement for South and North Ayrshire. Claire then thanked the Chamber team, the Board, with a special thanks to Alison Sommerville for her support over the past two years, as she retired from the Board.

No questions were raised.

Proposed by: Robert Ferguson

Seconded by: Martin Murphy

5. Approval of Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Alison Sommerville, President, asked Robert Ferguson, Treasurer to give an overview of last year's accounts which form part of the Annual Report previously circulated. Robert started by thanking Adrienne Howard – Chamber Finance Officer who had recently retired from the role, for all her work over the many years she had been with the Chamber, he went on to welcome Katie McGhee who had taken up the role. Robert stated that the Chamber had had a good year again, but it was important not to become complacent. A large amount of income comes from projects such as DYW, and this income is not guaranteed. He stated that the Chamber had sufficient reserves. He thanked the Board, Claire and her team and Auditors Rogerson & Goldie. To be updated

Proposed by: David Christian

Seconded by: Richard Longmuir

6. Resignation of Directors

- None

7. Retirement of Directors:

In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association adopted by the Board on September 2010 the following Directors are retiring:

- Alison Sommerville, Dustacco Engineering Ltd, 78 Brown Street, Newmilns

8. Directors not standing for re-election

- None

9. Re-election of Directors - In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association

In accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association adopted by the Board on September 2010 the following Directors are eligible for re-election;

- Fiona McKenzie, Centrestage Communities Ltd, 15 Elmbank Drive, Kilmarnock
- Craig Johnstone, Gigaret Education, 44 Bank Street, Kilmarrock



Proposed by: Martin Murphy
Seconded by: Peter Telfer

10. Appointment of New Directors: Following an open recruitment from Chamber members, the Board are delighted to have selected successful applicants. Together with existing directors, the Board composition will better represent the landscape of Chamber membership in terms of sizes, types and geographical spread of the membership. In accordance with the memorandum and Articles of Association adopted by the Board on September 2010 the following new Directors for Approval are:

- Angela Cox, Ayrshire College, Hill Street, Kilmarnock
- Aimee Doole, Booth Welsh, 3 Riverside Way, Irvine
- Iain Greer, Monarch Financial Services, 42 Bank Street, Kilmarnock

Proposed by: Peter Telfer
Seconded by: Richard Longmuir

11. Appointment of Officers

President Craig Johnstone of Giglets Education and Vice President Steven Easton of Green Home Systems were voted into office

Craig Johnstone Proposed by: Robert Ferguson & Seconded by: David Christian

Steven Easton Proposed by: Craig Johnstone & Seconded by: Martin Murphy

11. Appointment of Auditors

The appointment of Rogerson & Goldie Chartered Accountants as auditors of the company at a remuneration to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Proposed by: Robert Ferguson
Seconded by: Richard Longmuir

12. Any other competent Business

Craig Johnstone, thank Alison Sommerville for her tenure as President and gave a presentation on behalf of the Board, Members and Staff of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

The President closed the meeting at 2.15 pm by extending her thanks to Members and staff from Ayrshire Chamber for attending the AGM. He also thanked the Board of Directors for their time and support during the year. He then introduced David Hernandez of Strathclyde University to give an overview of the new Digital Process Manufacturing Centre in Irvine.