**Minutes of the Eastbourne & District Chamber of Commerce Ltd**

**T/A Eastbourne *unLtd* Chamber of Commerce**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 26th May 2022**

**Commenced at 6.00pm**

**Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club, Eastbourne**

**PRESENT**

**Top Table:**

**Nicky Fisher President**

**Christina Ewbank Chief Executive**

**Malcolm Preece Auditor, Price & Co**

**Honoured Guests:**

Cllr David Tutt, Leader of EBC

Cllr Stephen Holt, Deputy Leader and BID CEO

Cllr Robert Smart – Council Opposition Leader

Cllr Colin Swansborough

Cllr Josh Babarinde OBE

Tim Whelan, EBC Director

Luke Johnson, Your Eastbourne BID Operations Manager

**A Total of 50 Members, Staff and Guests attended**

**CEO Housekeeping**

The Chief Executive drew everyone’s attention to the available agenda, minutes, accounts and notice of AGM which were displayed. Also the President Elect biography and Director biographies for re-election. We were not expecting any fire alarm testing, so the CEO gave details of evacuation and where to muster. She then handed over to the President to welcome everyone.

**1 Welcome**

The President welcomed all present to this first physical AGM since before the pandemic. She then handed over to Dickie Bird, Yacht Club, Rear Commodore Racing of the Yacht Club.

Dickie Bird welcomed everyone to the club and was pleased to report that since Covid, membership has increased, as well as bookings and that there are no wedding bookings available now until 2023!

Dickie Bird then handed back to the President who chaired the meeting:

**2** **Notice of Meeting** The formal notice of the AGM was posted in accordance with our Constitution. The President said it is great to see the level of support we receive from Malcolm Preece and Eastbourne Borough Council, and I am delighted we are supported by so many councillors and officers here this evening.

The Notice of the AGM was then proposed by Dickie Bird and seconded by Luke Shevels. All in favour.

The President then introduced Malcolm Preece and Christina Ewbank to the meeting.

**3** **Apologies** TheChief Executive explained that Caroline Ansell was called into a committee meeting in parliament today, which she could not leave and sends her apologies. She then read the list of other apologies from Members, Guests and Directors as follows:

EBC CEO Rob Cottrill

EBC Director Ian Fitzpatrick

Cllr Penny Di Cara

Cllr Margaret Bannister

Cllr Paul Metcalfe MBE

Cllr Helen Burton

Cllr Joanna Whippy

Cllr Alan Shuttleworth

Cllr Colin Belsey

Cllr Ksharma Shore

Shona Campbell of the University of Brighton

Colin Davis of Lawler Davis

Oliver Sterno of Plastic Free Eastbourne

**Directors**

Neville Beckhurst of Price & Co

Tim Cobb of Cobb PR

Shoes Simes of The Rainbow, The Dew Drop and The Eagle

Linda Salway of Eastbourne College

Matt Huddart of The View Hotel

Joe Hill of Towner

**4 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th June 2021** had been posted online in accordance with the Constitution and were taken as read. Approval of the Minutes was carried unanimously, proposed by Mina O’Brien and seconded by Stephen Holt. The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record.

**5 Annual Accounts and Auditor’s Report to 31st December 2021** Abbreviated copies of the accounts were emailed out to members and shown online on our website over the last month. The President called on Malcolm Preece, our Auditor at Price & Co to comment.

*Good evening, everyone.*

*We have completed our audit work and the draft accounts for the year to 31 December 2021 are available on the Chamber website. These are only draft in so far as they are awaiting the revised wording for the directors’ report and the approval of this meeting. The numbers are final so far as we are concerned.*

*2021 saw the economy start to open up again, and this is reflected in increased membership subscriptions of £63,000. Rental income increased slightly to £57,000 and the meetings and events income increased. A lease extension also provided income of just over £15,000. The gross surplus increased by 17% to £133,000.*

*The overheads this year were lower at £79,000, mainly from reduced staff costs, so the Chamber made a surplus this year of just over £36,000 after tax, and reserves increased to £642,000. The reserves are needed to fund any special items and to make sure that the Chamber can continue to support members through any future pandemic, or unexpected and difficult events.*

There were no questions. The accounts were unanimously approved. Proposed by Tim Sorensen and seconded by Mark McFadden.

**6 President’s Report for 2021/22/23**

Well, what a year!

While still settling down after Brexit and emerging from various pandemic lockdowns, we didn’t anticipate a war between Russia and Ukraine. The impact on the economy has been significant, pushing energy and food prices through the roof, just when our economy is under pressure from Covid and Brexit. Despite this, or perhaps because of these economic shocks, the Chamber has held its own and grown by over 6%.

***The Chamber’s Future***

*During the last few months, a team of directors has worked on the strategy for the future of the Chamber. So, I’d like to thank Richard Garland, Shoes Simes, Luke Shevels and Christina Ewbank for working with me to develop our strategy.*

*Our agreed vision is now “To be the best place to do business in the UK.” A bold objective, but very achievable.*

*While people leave cities for a better work/life balance, we offer stunning countryside and pristine beaches, great pubs and restaurants, world class culture, a warm and friendly place that is safe for families with excellent schools and we now have excellent connectivity, thanks to our member, Lightning Fibre offering 1000 mbps broadband speeds, so it’s really easy to work efficiently from our beautiful town.*

*We also have a supportive enterprise culture. How many businesses can boast access to the MPs across their county, to the senior team of the council and to ministers when they need it. The support we had from all these policy makers during the pandemic was exceptional and is much appreciated.*

*Caroline Ansell worked with the Council to support our successful bid for £20million Levelling Up Fund, which we detailed at last year’s AGM. She also brought the Minister for Tourism, Nigel Huddleston, to meet up and his support for our Tourism Summit was very valuable.*

*Since then, we have conducted a successful visitor survey and developed a digital platform to encourage visitors to come to the town.*

*Our agreed Mission is to:* ***Enterprise / Socialise / Realise****¸ enabling thriving and sustainable businesses that provide secure, stable jobs with a great work/life balance. If we spent most of our waking hours in work, it’s vital that we enjoy it. For this reason, I will be focusing on Chamber activities that support members, provide friendship and also an enjoyable environment.*

*I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Jill Benjafield, Sandra Walker and Luke Johnson for the excellent work that they do in organising all of our activities.*

***Our Strategic Priorities***

*In preparation for the future, our directors have formed a number of task groups to achieve goals.*

*Richard Garland is working on a series of big panel discussions for members including achieving carbon zero, digitising Eastbourne, increasing tourism, developing our culture and making urbanism work for our town.*

*Luke Shevels is working on identifying and developing the next generation of business leaders.*

*Tim Cobb is working on the diversity of our Chamber and its Board.*

*Mark McFadden is working on the development of our infrastructure, including pedestrianizing the town from the seafront to the station and protecting the town with effective and attractive sea defences.*

*Christina Ewbank is heading up the stakeholder group to invest the Levelling Up Fund to benefit the whole town.*

*Shoes is reviewing our marketing plans to:*

*1. Promote Eastbourne’s Chamber as the “Go To” business support organisation, and*

*2. Ensure Eastbourne is recognised as “The best place to do business in the UK.”*

*And I am focusing on regular meetings with the County and Borough Councils to ensure that we all work together to achieve these goals.*

*While doing all this we keep our values in mind:*

*- We are inclusive*

*- We are respectful*

*- We are welcoming*

*- We support the business community and our partners.*

*And we support you, in everything that we do and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at future events.*

There being no questions, the President called for approval of her Report. This was proposed by Ashley Pugh and seconded by Penny Shearer. All in favour.

**7 Election of Offices of President, President Elect, Vice President and Honorary Treasurer for 2022**

A nomination had been received from Richard Garland in the position of President Elect to work with Nicky Fisher for the coming year. This was proposed by Ashley Pugh and seconded by Rachel Stone.

**To formally propose Nicky Fisher as President and Richard Garland as President Elect for 2022/23**

This was proposed by Russell Colbran and seconded by Penny Shearer. Unanimously agreed.

The Chief Executive then declared Nicky Fisher as President for the forthcoming year and Richard Garland as President Elect.

**8 Election of Officers and Board of Directors -** The Chamber seeks to represent the membership in whatever way possible and similarly, the Board of Directors seeks to be fully representative of the membership as a whole.

**Vice President:** No new nominations have been received for the position of Vice President. Shoes Simes and Russell Colbran have elected to continue as Vice President. Shoes is the owner of Evil Empire Inns, (The Eagle, The Dew Drop and The Rainbow), Chair of Your Eastbourne BID, Director of Edeal Enterprise Agency and Committee Member of the Hospitality Association.

Russell Colbran, Managing Director of the family-owned builders Colbran and Wingrove which has been established in the Eastbourne area for over 50 years. He is also a director of Edeal.

The above nominations were proposed by Mina O’Brien and seconded by Ian Shearer. Unanimously agreed.

**Hon. Treasurer:**

There was one nomination for Neville Beckhurst to continue as Treasurer for 2022/23. This was proposed by Luke Shevels and seconded by Steve Christmas. Unanimously agreed. The President then declared Neville Beckhurst (in his absence) as Treasurer for the forthcoming year.

**Election of Board of Directors for the year 2022/23**

The President confirmed that Vice Presidents Shoes Simes of Evil Empire Inns, Russell Colbran of Colbran & Wingrove and Neville Beckhurst as Honorary Treasurer are all appointed for the coming year.

The Chamber of Commerce seeks to represent the membership in every way possible and under the Constitution, one-third of the directors seek re-election each year.

**The following directors have been nominated for re-election:**

Russell Colbran, MD of Colbran & Wingrove Construction

Shoes Simes, Owner of The Dew Drop, The Eagle and The Rainbow

Sarah Dyer, Training, Development and Employee Engagement Manager of Stagecoach

Stephen Holt, CEO of Your Eastbourne BID

Linda Salway, Head of Creative Arts – Eastbourne College

And so, the directors seeking to continue in office are:

Neville Beckhurst

Tim Cobb

Rebecca Conroy

Nicky Fisher

Richard Garland

Joe Hill

Matt Huddart

Mark McFadden

Mina O’Brien

Ashley Pugh

Luke Shevels

**To formally propose all the directors for 2022/23 en bloc**. This was proposed by Laura Murphy and seconded by Chris Wilson. Unanimously agreed.

Being elected to the Chamber Board to represent our members and fight for what we believe in is a great honour. But the directors also roll their sleeves up and get stuck into dozens of different issues and challenges throughout the year. My fellow directors, please stand up – THANK YOU.

**9 Election of Auditors for the financial year 2022/2023**

The Chief Executive announced that Price and Co were subject to regular review and were recommended as auditors.

The Auditors were proposed by Ashley Pugh and seconded by Mark McFadden. All in favour. Malcolm Preece was then given thanks for all his work.

**10 Any Other Business**

The President thanked the 27 Premier Members for their invaluable support. This number has increased by 29% on last year.

1. *AFH Payroll*
2. *Aspect Metalcraft*
3. *Axisops*
4. *Bamb Design Studio*
5. *Brewers*
6. *Eastbourne Audi*
7. *Eastbourne MG*
8. *Eastbourne Motoring Centre*
9. *Fountain Digital*
10. *Gardners Books*
11. *Go Plastic Pallets*
12. *Hart Reade*
13. *Herron Fisher*
14. *Hydro Hotel*
15. *Lightning Fibre*
16. *Mayo Wynne Baxter*
17. *OHM Energy*
18. *Renn Group*
19. *Safer Health & Safety*
20. *Southern IT*
21. *Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club*
22. *Sportswise*
23. *St Wilfrid’s Hospice*
24. *Switchplane*
25. *Tradesmith*
26. *University of Brighton*
27. *W. Bruford Jeweller*

The Chamber members were thanked for attending our first physical AGM since the pandemic.

There was no other formal business and so the AGM closed at 6.28pm.

After the formal AGM closed the Chamber moved on to presentations and keynote speakers.

**Stephen Holt and Luke Johnson of Your Eastbourne BID ran through the plans for the Jubilee celebration and Christina Ewbank ran through current Chamber activities and achievements that Members might not be aware of.**

**[Both presentations were supported by PowerPoint slides, available on request.]**

***Stephen Holt*** *- It is great to have been re-elected as a director. Thanks to Nicky Fisher and all the Board for their hard work. I wanted to spend a few minutes to tell you about the jubilee activities that the BID team are working on. Following the success of the Lightning Fibre ice rink at Christmas, Luke and I sat down and went through the next big thing – and realized it was without question the Platinum Jubilee.*

*The jubilee is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to celebrate the Queen and our country. It’s a good way for pushing this positivity to the town, to get people back into Eastbourne and for people to enjoy themselves after a difficult two years.*

*Firstly we will cover the town in red, white, and blue and this is already happening. There will be 145 union jack lamppost banners in the town centre, including Terminus Road, Gildredge Road, Hyde Gardens, Langley Road, Bolton Road, Cornfield, South Street and Grove Road. These will stay up until the end of summer. We will also put up 1.5kms of bunting in Little Chelsea, Terminus Road and Victoria Place, which will go up by next Tuesday. Several large cross street signs are also going up with either 2, 3, or 4 flags depending on how big the cross street signage is.*

*There will be union jack flags wherever you go! Also, we’re installing 56 beautiful planters in Little Chelsea, Station Approach, Victoria Place and outside Debenhams. The first planting will be red, white and blue themed. They are being funded by the European Region Development fund as part of the Welcome Back Fund. Then after the summer they will be replanted with autumnal displays.*

*We have a fantastic event planned in Little Chelsea on Thursday 2nd June. Luke and I have worked with the traders and will put on a full day’s event which is absolutely free to attend. I have put posters on the tables with the day’s schedule for you to look at and share.*

*There will be a royal bear hunt, dog show (£1 per dog entry) and live entertainment from noon until 9.30pm. There will also be a Best of British fancy dress competition (e.g. Captain Cook) which will be judged by the Mayor. I will be wearing a costume, as will Luke! There will be arts and crafts and a sports day. At 9.45pm the Jubilee beacon will be lit outside the town hall followed by a firework finale at the Saffrons.*

*The SaffronsSports Club and the pubs in South Street have sponsored the fire works. There will also be loads of tables and chairs for picnics/socialising and both roads will be closed off for safety. My thanks go to the Council and East Sussex College Group for helping make this happen.*

***Carnival***

*I have been working with Mina, who has done a fantastic job and really driven the carnival to new heights this year. There are over 50 entrants including Bolivian dancing bands! The opening procession is at noon from the Enterprise Centre. We will parade with Stix Drummers from there to the Pier letting people know what is going on. The full carnival parade is at 2pm and our thanks go to Lightning Fibre and the Enterprise Centre for their sponsorship. There will be lots* of *songs, music, dancing and activity. The costume theme will be the Best of British.*

*Luke and I have also been working on the global market to celebrate the jubilee and the Queen’s Commonwealth. There will be 15 stalls outside Boots in Terminus Road and many are new to the market. So do come and say hello.*

*The success of the Eastbourne Borough Market with the Vegan Market, the Youth Market and the Christmas Market meant that Luke was nominated for an award, and won Highly Commended. [Applause].*

*I will now hand over to Luke, who is working really hard on the youth market.*

***Luke Johnson***

*On Saturday June 11th we will see the return of the award-winning Youth Market, which was very popular last year. There will be 15 to 20 young traders all under the age of 30 showcasing the ideas they had during lockdown and will be able to display their ideas in the town centre. The quality of their goods has been exceptional so do come and support them.*

*Some of the traders have even moved on to open up restaurants.*

*There will be lots of live music on the Hive stage, as well as street entertainers, so do join us.*

***Stephen***

*One final thing to tell you about is the Victoria Place Pop-Up Park, which we are bringing back again this year. We are working with Chamber member Aleks of Giannis and the traders in Victoria Place to close off the .*

*The event was very successful last year, despite bad weather. Although most of the people in these photos were wearing rain jackets, they enjoyed the music and were dancing in the street! It was hugely popular and successful and the work that the traders put in was fundamental.*

*I believe that the Levelling Up Fund was successful because of the work done in Victoria Place with the Pop-Up Park, particularly when we took Caroline Ansell down with the Tourism Minister, Nigel Huddleston, and showed them what can be done on a relatively small budget, they could visualise what was possible.*

*Bringing it back this summer will be absolutely huge. Thanks to everyone for allowing us to experiment with this and for their full-blooded support - it will be brilliant! Come on down, enjoy, support and spend. Love Local, Shop Local: Love Local, Eat Local. If you don’t support your town centre, you will lose it!*

Stephen then handed back to The President, who then invited Christina Ewbank to speak.

**Christina Ewbank, CEO of Eastbourne *UnLtd* Chamber of Commerce**

*Very often members don’t know about all the other activities we get involved in, so I thought I should take this opportunity to tell you what we do, alongside networking! We work with the BID really closely, and so special thanks are due to Stephen and Luke for supporting everything that the Chamber does. Thanks to Angela for doing the minutes and for keeping my emails under control. Thanks also to Sandra, and Jill at the back. Sandra does a phenomenal job in organizing all the Edeal coaching, mentoring and workshops. And Jill as you know does a great job organizing all the Chamber events and managing the website for us.*

*We are unlimited geographically and have members from all over the country since we started as a trade body over 130 years ago. During lockdown we held our own and have expanded since last year by over 6%. In fact, our farthest member is in Northern Ireland, so we really are unlimited!*

*As Nicky said our Board aims to be representative of our membership and so we have directors from the sectors shown here, including insolvency, construction, surveying, estate agents, publicans, hospitality, PR, digital marketing and social media, accountancy, educationalists in East Sussex College Group - a state organization and Eastbourne College, a private school. We have directors from Stagecoach Bus Company, The Towner, The BID, hoteliers, retail and business support, stationery and office furniture. We try to represent you all, but as Nicky says, if anyone is interested in getting involved, do please approach us and talk to us. See if you fancy becoming part of the task groups we run on the Board.*

*One thing about this town is we work really well with different partners. I used to run Mercedes Benz in Chichester but I didn’t know anyone in either the Chichester or West Sussex councils, and I had no idea there was a Chamber of Commerce there! Within 3 months of moving to Eastbourne I was approached by Christine Purkess and asked to get involved. Since then I have been amazed by the effectiveness of working with partners across the town and the County.*

*We work incredibly well with Eastbourne Borough Council, Wealden Council, Lewes and also the County Council. We work with the MPs' office and all the MPs across East Sussex. We work with all the Chambers of Commerce in East Sussex through the Alliance known as ACES. This has 4000 members and 18,000 members of staff - who are all voters, which gives us a powerful voice.*

*So, when we ask to see a Secretary of State to discuss a barrier to business we are generally successful. Caroline Ansell has really helped to get us in front of Ministers who really can make a difference. More of that when we talk about funding we have secured.*

*Also we are the only Chamber in East Sussex, West Sussex or Kent which has a regular meeting with the Bank of England; the nearest Chamber they meet is in Portsmouth. They tell us what is going on with the national and global economy, and they give us their forecasts for the future. But they also want to know what is happening locally in different sectors and so we feed back how businesses are doing locally. They take this information to the Monetary Policy Committee who make decisions about interest rates that effect us all. So what we tell them is very important to all our businesses.*

***Background***

*Interestingly, there are just under 6 million independent private businesses in the UK, which are at the heart of the Chamber movement. Of these, 4.6 million are sole traders - almost double what it was pre-pandemic. Many people have clearly left employment to set up their own business.*

*As a Chamber and Edeal we offer training to all of those new businesses, so that they do not make any mistakes in the first year of trading. Natwest research told us that 80% of new businesses fail in the first year if they don’t take advice from business agencies like the Chamber or Edeal. When they contact Sandra and speak to our mentors and consultants, 90% of them survive and thrive.*

*It is really important that these people go through this process before losing their life savings and/or redundancy money.*

*So what has the Chamber actually done for its members?*

*It is clearly not just about networking.*

Last year 200 delegates went through our start-up programmes and leadership training. We have offered SEO training with Robbie Mould of RJM Digital free of charge to help hospitality businesses make sure that they achieve search engine optimization and appear on the first page of any search on the internet.

One of the hospitality members is here and participated in this coaching. This member told me that she now gets direct contacts from people in Europe who are coming straight to her and not through [booking.com](http://booking.com). Did you know that they take 20% of the overall turnover from any transaction? So attracting customers direct is vital. Please, *before using booking.com, try phoning the hotel direct.*

*One thing I found working at Mercedes-Benz UK is that if you run a terrific training course everyone is fired up, but when they get back to the day to day their enthusiasm peters out as the daily workload takes over. It is therefore vital to follow up any workshop with 1-2-1 coaching to help delegates make the changes they want to see to improve their business.*

*Stephen and I also worked out how much money we have raised for charity this year, and it’s over £5,700 between us, which was donated to our charity members.*

*Are you aware that you have your own meeting room in the town centre? Our meeting room is available to members free of charge for up to 2-hours. If you want to meet in the town centre, make a presentation, or hold a hybrid meeting for up to 1000 people using our conferencing technology, you can. And, thanks to Lightning Fibre, you can use our 1000 mbps broadband. Give us notice, so that we can book the room for you.*

*Also you can use our PR services. We are not a full PR agency, but can put articles about you and your business in local papers likle The Herald, BourneFree and the Sussex Express. This service is free of charge to our members.*

*During Covid we worked with the Council to launch a local COBR meeting, which made a huge difference to residents of Eastbourne. We met every week when the pandemic first hit. Some older people were not even eating properly having gone 2-3 weeks without being able to shop online. We worked with the Council who put together a group of people to drawdown food and deliver it to those in need.*

*We also contacted the BBC television for support and they were brilliant. They interviewed some of our members and Caroline Ansell and within a week the government had changed their policy to support businesses who did not pay rates directly.*

*We also had contact with people direct in the Cabinet Office and they were really responsive when we contacted them. This kind of business leadership on your behalf is vital. If you want help, do please call the office and talk to us. If we can’t help you, we normally know who can.*

*When staffing levels became a problem we ran a recruitment day and linked up people seeking jobs with employers in hospitality. We put together a cultural group to communicate the cultural offering in Eastbourne. We now have some stellar members including The London Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as The Towner and the De La Warr Pavilion.*

*Stephen mentioned the Levelling Up Fund. The Chamber chaired a group where 56 different ideas came from various groups across the town. We had to refine it down to just three! Working with the Hospitality Association, the College, The Towner and the Council we did this successfully and won £19.8 million from the fund as a result.*

*Whilst this money will improve the cultural offering of the town – which will bring more people into hotels, restaurants, shops and drive the economy of the town – we have insisted that the project must involve the disadvantaged people in our town. Four local areas are in the bottom 12% of most disadvantaged communities in the country. One is in the bottom 4%. If someone leaves school with no qualifications they may feel that* *society has passed them by. We will be working with them on this project. We don’t want to parachute works of art into their areas we want them to help create this art. And if they have worked on making these works of art they will be learning welding skills, engineering and mathematics by creating a metal structure. If we get it right, they will really get something out of it and develop civic pride in what they create.*

 *As Stephen said, Nigel Huddleston was impressed with the pop-up park and everyone that he met. And when we sent the Levelling Up Fund Summary to Michael Gove and Nigel Huddleston, we had it designed by one of our members to be colourful and easy to read. As a result, Nigel wrote back and from what he said it was clear he had actually read it, which was really encouraging.*

*Over the years we have met the then Secretary of State Patrick McLoughlin who gave us £70 million to improve the A27. We met Chris Grayling who gave us £3 million to run a business study to prove that there is a strong business case for an offline A27. And, as a result, the A27 is now on the Strategic Routes Review, so we are one step closer to getting a better road across the county.*

*With David Tutt I am involved and the Enterprise Partnership, Selep, and have actually managed to drawdown a lot of money for East Sussex. For example, we pushed to get £8 million for the Exceat Bridge over the Cuckmere Haven which will improve journey times on the A259.*

*Through Selep and EU funding Richard Garland has been working on fishermen’s quay near the west Harbour where there is a wonderful fish shop – one of our members. The fishermen pull up and unload their catch and then prepare and sell the fish in the shop. It is really fresh and caught locally.*

*We also managed to help drawdown £600,000 to help tackle homelessness. Five years ago there were 80 homeless people in Eastbourne - 40 of them on any night would be in the doorways of the shops. They did not disappear: instead they left because of work done by the Rough Sleeper Initiative who spoke at a previous AGM. This is the kind of money we can drawdown if we all work together.*

*Aside from networking, we also have a discussion panel to talk about achieving carbon zero, which is so important for the world, but also for us to achieve carbon zero by 2030 as a town.*

*Finally, we have two major events coming up: the Airbourne lunch sponsored by Lightning Fibre - their support is really valuable – and we have taken control of the Eastbourne Business Awards. This will be held on 30th September at the Winter Gardens and will be a black tie event, sponsored by Brufords. We have about 5 categories left and would love more category sponsors. Anyone interested in sponsoring do please come and speak to me.*

*Thank you all for your time. If you have any questions do please talk to me or any of the directors over drinks and canapes.*

There being no other questions the meeting closed at 7.00pm.

After the presentations, the Chief Executive thanked all the members and guests who had attended the AGM for their support and contribution and invited Chamber members and guests in the Yacht Club to continue to network and enjoy the refreshments provided.