



MINUTES

**Dorset Chamber of Commerce & Industry Council Meeting at 4.30pm
Thursday 13th July, Lester Aldridge, Russell House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth. BH8 8EX**

Present:

Chris Slocock (CS), (Chair), Ian Girling (IG), Chris Palmer (CP), Helen Stacey (HS), Nicola Newman (NN), Ian Cambrook (IC), James Robinson (JR), Simon West (SW), Vicki Hailes (VH), (minutes)

ACTION

- Dorset Chamber of Commerce & Industry will be shown as (DCCI) throughout the Minutes.

Welcome & Resignations

1. (CS) Chair of Council welcomed everyone to the meeting with apologies received from James Lattimer (JL), Ben Arnold (BA), Steve Bendell (SB), Caron Khan (KC), Jason Gault (JG), David Walsh (DW), Paul Collins (PC), James Stelfox (JS), and Board members Liz Willingham (LW), Paul Tansey (PT) and Stephen Mills (SM).

(CS) reiterated the importance of the role of Ambassadors which he said had now been clearly defined but that developing strategies to support membership was important. (IG) said that some Ambassador attendance at events could be improved upon and that he would encourage attendance by all Ambassadors. He also said that poor attendance level at Council meetings by some Ambassadors had been noted and he and Chair of Council would be addressing this. (HS) asked about the initiative of linking Ambassadors with new members prior to events and (IG) said this had been noted as an Action and Matters arising, agenda item 4, and that this was in hand with Head of Membership, Anne Warner.

- Action (IG) and (CS) to remind those Ambassadors the importance of regular attendance of Council Meetings. **(IG) (CS)**

2. **Rotary Wessex – 100 years of the Rotary Foundation**

(CS) then began his report, explaining his role as a District Governor of Rotary Wessex and their core values as a global foundation over the past 122 years before showing a short video.

He explained that Rotary was a service organisation committed to making a difference to solving problems all around the world. He informed that there are 78 Rotary Clubs across Rotary Wessex extending across Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Channel Islands with some 2400 Rotarians - supporting and funding many wide ranging community projects locally and Internationally.

(CS) explained about the Rotary Business Partners scheme - started by CJS in this District

raises around £50,000 a year for clubs and projects and that the Rotary Foundation is 100 years old this year and started with only \$26.50 and now has a fund of \$1billion dollars spending \$3 billion Dollars on Projects worldwide.

He updated that since Rotary started to eliminate Polio over 30 years ago cases have dropped from 1000 a day to only 6 in 2017 a reduction of over 99.9%. Rotary, including match funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation has donated \$1.6 billion to Polio eradication.

(IG) asked how the Rotary helped at a local level and (CS) said there were over 1,800 clubs in Britain alone with active clubs in Poole. He explained how young carers in the community were helped by being awarded adventure weekends. He said this funding provided by the Rotary was invaluable in offering support in allowing young carers to come together. (HS) said that the video showed a different side to the usual perception of Rotary clubs and (CS) agreed that the Rotary was now very diverse with a wide range of people of all involved. (IG) said that there was a similarity with the Chamber in that branding was crucial to accurately reflect a more diverse and modern organisation.

To find out more about Rotary Internationally visit www.rotary.org

(IG) then thanked Chris for a very informative and enlightening presentation.

3. **Minutes of the Ambassador Meeting held on 11th March 2017**

(CS) proposed the minutes, these were seconded by (SW) and agreed unanimously by the Council. The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

4. **Actions and Matters Arising from the Council meeting held on 11th March 2017**

(IG) updated on the three completed actions and matters arising and said that in regards to the remaining action, he had spoken with Alison Smith, Project Coordinator, Jurassica to request an update; pending.

5. **Dorset Chamber Policy Watch**

(IC) presented his policy report July 2017 (*a copy of which is attached to and forms part of these Minutes*) and sent to Council prior to the meeting.

(IC) began his report with an update on Brexit which he said was now more complicated following the general election. He said the Government is due to publish The Great Repeal Bill compiled to deal with 43 years of European Legislation. He pointed out the irony in the Government attempting to “take back control” by using legislation from 1539 (known as the Henry VIII powers) in order to implement so called corrections to the statute book. (IC) said that conveniently, this would avoid the usual Parliamentary scrutiny. A brief discussion then ensued around the impact of Brexit and the worry around the Government failing to acknowledge that business confidence is a real issue. (IC) voiced his concerns that with the domination of Brexit that work carried out in the Industrial Strategy was in danger of being lost in in the wilderness.

(IC) updated on the Dorset Growth Deal with funding provided to a number of projects in Dorset. He said that LEP estimated that 2,000 jobs and real growth could be attributed to the Dorset Innovation Park launched in April. He also said that following the Queens' speech three new initiatives had been designed to help boost Britain's economy and that the LEP is keen to raise awareness around these projects. He said it might be timely to ask (DW) to update on the Dorset Growth Corridor. He also advised that £13.4m had been made available from the Business Growth Partnership for SME businesses from EU funding.

(IC) informed on the proposed 3rd runway at Heathrow with an update that a London businessman had put forward a £5B cheaper proposal which avoids moving both the M4 and M25. (IC) said this remained to be seen if this would be given serious consideration.

(IC) updated on Superfast Dorset with £7.4 funding being made available for ultrafast broadband to 97% Dorset businesses with even more premises gaining access to fibre broadband. He advised, with particular note and interest to (CP) and (PT), of a national report which had described digital skills in England as being in crisis. He mentioned the Dorset Employability Charter and suggested there might be possible link to the Young Chamber. (IG) then updated on the Young Chamber initiative. He said that as it moved into its second year, it had become apparent, that the coordinator role had become one of account management and should be run through school term only. Therefore, this would now become a part time role, as a result of which, Will Montgomery was leaving the post. (JR) spoke of his role within the Young Enterprise programme and asked (IG) if it was possible to work together to link the two programmes but with each maintaining its own identity. (IG) said this was a good idea and agreed that a meeting would be prudent.

(IC) said that the proposal to in reshaping Dorset's councils from nine to two unitary authorities was on-going with SE Dorset now wishing to join the discussion.

(IC) pointed out that LEP had asked that Ambassadors be made aware of a couple of pieces of work that the LEP were currently engaged in: Rural business and productivity work and the Great South West initiative. He said he would send the link to the final report due to be published at the end of July but further details can be seen below:

<http://dorsetlep.co.uk/media-centre/south-west-local-enterprise-partnerships%E2%80%99-new-rural-productivity-commission-seeks-views-from-rural-businesses/>

<http://greatsouthwest.org.uk/>

He concluded his report advising of road improvements starting at Chapel Gate in a 1.5m project that will run until December 2017.

In summary (IC) said that there was a lot going all taking place under the shadow of Brexit

- Action (IG) to ask (DW) to update Council on Dorset Growth Corridor. **(IG)**
- Action (JR) and (IG) to meet to discuss the Young Chamber and Young Enterprise working together. **(IG) (JR)**

7. **Co-option of DCCI Ambassadors** – adjourned and (IG) to update Ambassadors by email

- Action (IG) to email Ambassadors suggested candidates for co-opting onto Council following two resignations. **(IG)**

8. **Role and Participation of Ambassadors** – see Chairman's opening remarks, Agenda item 1

9. **Any Other Business**

(IG) announced that the DBA launch had been very good and he was particularly pleased with the branding. He stated that the awards were now open for entry and encouraged all Ambassadors to promote these.

10. There being no further businesses the meeting concluded at 6.00.

Dates of next meetings:

2017 Council Meetings all commence at 4.30pm – venues noted below

Thursday 14 th September	PKF Francis Clark
Thursday 16 th November	Savills

Board Meetings all commence at 4.30 pm at Chamber House

Thursday 22 June 2017
Thursday 24 Aug 2017
Thursday 19 Oct 2017
Thursday 14 Dec 2017

