DONCASTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGM 2022

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| **DATE** | 20TH December 2022 | **TIME** | 0830 -1000 |
| **LOCATION** | Eco Power Stadium, Stadium Way, Doncaster, DN4 5JW |

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| **IN ATTENDANCE:** | A.J. Redfern | A Savage | A Morley | A Wright |
| B Roberts | C Pridmore | D Allen | D Fell | D Boid |
| E Rugg | E Norton | H Abbott | J Dyer | J Hart |
| J Carley | K Beardsley | K Lindley | K Donnachie | L Hemstock |
| L Jerrison | L Crapper | L Coles | M Wilkinson | M Peebles |
| N Highfield | N Mallinson | N Andrew | R Lendraitiene | S Copley |
| S Moore | S Olsen | T Cartwright | V Brooks | W Sables |
| F Braithwaite | G Waddington |  |  |  |

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| **APOLOGIES:** | J Wood | R Jones | S Brain-England |  |

1. Welcome and Apologies

Andy Morley (Chamber President, AM), – Introduction and welcomes all to the meeting. Apologies noted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Exempt.

3. Minutes of 2021 AGM

Dan Fell (Chamber CEO, DF), – Asks for the minutes to be proposed as a true record. Proposer – J Carley Second – F Braithwaite

4. Video message from Shevaun Haviland, Director General of British Chambers of Commerce

To be emailed to all attendees.

5. Update from Damian Allen, Chief Executive of Doncaster Council

DA provides an update on behalf of the Council and Team Doncaster and thanks DF for the invitation to speak. Notes that the economy is still in recovery, the NHS still under pressure, climate change and the war in the Ukraine are having a massive impact globally.

The realities of leaving the EU are being felt especially in recruitment. Locally the closure of the airport is a set back with the loss of 700+ jobs. The cost of living crisis, the political gambles and personal ambition of MP’s leaves the public feeling failed by the government.

Highlights the need for strong and stable leadership in our borough. 2022 has been a year of progress, it was an honour to welcome His Majesty King Charles and the Queen Consort and look forward to 2023 as a City and we are still working to be the home of GBR HQ. Looking forward to continued dialogue and collaboration delivering together to achieve investment in infrastructure, employment and wellbeing programmes.

Adds how Team Doncaster and the Chamber help to progress the above and thanks DF for his leadership, recognising how the chamber has been fundamental in the fight for the airport and its future.

Closes that there is world leading work happening here in Doncaster.

6. 2022 Review – Andy Morley, Chamber President

AM recognises that the chamber has performed sensationally in 2022 and continues to fight through a tough year. States that he is proud that the chamber has been there for the business community, City status being a great achievement. Praises DF for his leadership.

Notes how we now have two city’s that gives us two seats at the table for our region and that we are down to the final 6 out 42 entrants for the GBR HQ bid. Recognises that we rallied together a coherent strategy around the airport all the while continuing the normal day to day business of the Chamber. Gives credit to the team for the Business Awards and the 78 events provided in 2022 to benefit the member businesses.

Provides detail that the chamber has 820 members and 21 patrons, supported 100 new businesses 23,500 young people and 450 adults. Opportunities Live Doncaster will see 4,000 learners and 100’s of exhibitor’s link to encourage future talent in our borough.

Closes that he is proud to be President of the Chamber of the Year and looks forward to a very busy next 12 months.

7. 2023 Overview – Dan Fell, Chamber CEO

DF recognises that 2023 will be tough and challenging affected by energy costs, supply chain issues and inflation but it is not going to be doom and gloom we will talk up our business community and weather the storm.

Notes that we have big projects on the list such as DSA and the expansion of YWP but we need more. As a chamber we are committed to grow our membership, reinvigorate what we offer and continue our commitment to Team Doncaster.

Closes with saying that he is fiercely proud of the Chamber Team and thanks them for all their hard work.

8. Q&A – Andy Morley, Dan Fell, Damian Allen

DF opens the floor to questions.

K Lindley (Be More Learning & Development), With regard to board membership what can be done to reflect the sole trader, there is not the equality of opportunity to get nominated as a sole trader?

DF responds that he believes there is opportunity to be co-opted, that he should continue to apply and we can find a way to open opportunities for nomination.

KL disagrees adding that he doesn’t have the same time available to canvas and run his business.

AM agrees the point and ensures further discussion at board level.

L Coles (Age UK Ltd), Can we work collaboratively looking at skills for care. We are struggling to recruit, the quality of applicants is lacking, how can we collaborate to improve the skills of the potential workforce?

DF responds there are lots of ways we can collaborate, there are good things already. LSIP is going to be a big part of this in the New Year and we are hoping to involve more businesses in providing coal face activities to get adults back into work. He will pick up with LC in the New Year.

DA also responds that he agrees that at school level we are not meeting the current requirements, we are seeing more unpaid carers and are at crisis point with other sectors being paid considerably more. He is more than happy to have a conversation and adds that the council are actively recruiting and references the Horizon Policy as part of Team Doncaster.

M Peebles (Harrison College Ltd), Will there be more of a focus on the Doncaster Promise in 2023?

DF explains to all what the Doncaster Promise is and agrees that it will be re driven in 2023.

K Lindley (Be More Learning & Development), how can we see as members the transparency of the chamber, in that you have 820 members but what are the net losses, who are the people posting on social media and are they actively sharing or just paying lip service, of the 78 events what has the turn out been for them, what is the annual turnover etc?

DF thanks KL for the challenge, and states that membership is 2nd biggest net growth against the 53 chambers, memberships lapse for many reasons but is at a reasonable level. We assess each event, some don’t fly but we learn and test new things.

9. Approval of 2021/22 Audited Accounts

DF puts forward the approval stating that last year was year 1 of a 3 year plan.

Representing the Chamber’s auditors, Allott’s Chartered Accountants, Neil Highfield (NH) is pleased to report on good progress and we are performing well.

Proposer – F Braithwaite Second – M Wilkinson

10. Appointment of Auditors

DF we will retain existing auditors and will tender next year.

Proposer – J Carley Second – F Braithwaite

11. Approval of updated Memorandum and Articles

DF – It has been 10 years since it has been fully refreshed, there have been 7 small alterations tidying up the language:

* Allow for virtual/hybrid
* EU post Brexit changes
* Too much about membership
* Added robust ability to remove members due to bad behaviour of staff, the Board can do this and it will not be made public.
* Recognise Doncaster’s ability to work with outside businesses.
* Customer practice to do AGM.

Proposer – N Mallinson Second – F Braithwaite

12. Chamber Board Election Results

Steve Bradley (Nat West), has now retired

Non-Executive Directors appointed:

* Jim Carley (Carley Consult Ltd)

13. AOB

None – DF thanks all for attending and closes meeting.